

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on November 14, 2024, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present:      Chair Nathan Barten  
   Vice Chair Brandon Sis  
   Commissioner Todd Arts  
   Commissioner Jennifer Leistico (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)  
   Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent:      Commissioner Shane Bennett  
   Commissioner Megan Ealain

Also Present:                              City Council Liaison Debra Musgrove  
   Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Mark Riverblood  
   Recreation Coordinator Abby Proulx

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Barten called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Barten; Commissioners Sis, Arts, and Olson. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Bennett, Ealain and Leistico.

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:   Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes:

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes date October 10, 2024

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Barten; Commissioners Sis, Olson, and Arts. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Bennett, Ealain, and Leistico.

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: 2025 Playground Replacement Planning – Central and Riverdale Parks**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that the playground replacement policy projects that one playground per year is replaced, noting that five playground have been replaced in the last five years. He reviewed the current condition of the Central Park playground noting that the wood posts are still solid and in good condition and identified items that could easily be refurbished and others that could be removed. He provided a similar overview of Riverdale Park. He displayed brand new regional playground equipment that is available because it was made in the wrong color. He noted the equipment has a value of \$346,000 (not including installation) and explained that the playground components could be divided between the two parks. He identified items that could be added to Central Park, along with refurbishment of the equipment that would remain as well as the additional equipment that could go to Riverdale Park. He stated that in another scenario, all of the equipment could go to Central Park and Riverdale Park could then wait for 2026.

Commissioner Leistico arrived.

Commissioner Sis asked for an overview of the cost component for some of the items.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that he does have the breakdown of the different cost components but does not have that with him today. He stated that the value of the equipment is about \$346,000 but the City could purchase it for about \$250,000 and installation is typically around 30 percent of the product cost. He stated that they would also need to update each of the playground with engineered wood fiber, which would have a cost of \$12,000 to \$18,000 per playground. He stated that they would also adjust the playground borders, noting that could be done by staff. He noted that the demolition and disposal cost for each park would be about \$2,000 but that could be reduced by refurbishing some elements. He noted that staff would continue to work on the menu of costs.

Chair Barten commented that the wood components at Central Park are in good shape and asked about the anticipated lifespan for those posts if they were to remain.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the wood is treated from within and suspected that the posts would last a long time given the sunny conditions. He stated that if they were able to refurbish the Central Park wood items and add some new components, they would plan to circle back to Central Park after they have completed additional playground replacement and continue to replace the wood items at that time, estimating perhaps another five years.

Chair Barten asked if the refurbished components at Central Park would be painted to match the new components.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood confirmed that they would plan to paint in similar colors. He explained that this would be a way to improve more than one playground within the budget constraints.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that this looks like a great plan and asked if the total package of equipment would need to be purchased or whether certain items could be chosen.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that they probably could parse out equipment but suspected that this opportunity is also being reviewed by other communities.

Councilmember Musgrove asked for details on the timeframe when the equipment would be available.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood replied that the equipment is available now. He stated that once the Commission makes a recommendation, he would bring that to the Council as soon as possible after that. He hoped to have more information for the Commission to review in January and February in order to then bring it to the Council in order to plan for implementation in 2025. He noted that these components are ready and assembled which could mean the equipment is ready for use in June rather than later in the summer.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she liked the idea of spreading this between two parks.

Commissioner Olson commented that there are a lot of youth programs at Central Park and parents comments on how they like parking lot and landscaping improvements, along with the pickleball courts. He stated that he likes the idea of spreading it out, but Central Park is a marquee park with a lot of use and would want to see that continue to be improved.

Commissioner Sis commented that if there is chance for implementation on Central Park earlier rather than limping along, he could support that, especially with all the development in that area.

Chair Barten commented it seems the Commission agrees that this could be a good value to acquire this equipment and would be interested in seeing more information. He agreed that Central Park continues to have increased use and is in need of this amenity.

Commissioner Sis commented that if they can get the discounted equipment that is a great option but otherwise does not believe that both parks need to be done in one year.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that he can present a few options. He agreed that Central Park has a lot of use and while there are a lot of children around Riverdale, they do need to continue to focus on Central Park and therefore one option can be for just Central Park.

## **5.02: Recreation Programs – A Year in Review**

Recreation Coordinator Proulx presented an overview of recreation programming throughout the past year.

Commissioner Sis commended Recreation Coordinator Proulx for her excellent work and expanded programming opportunities. He noted that he found himself participating in more programming this past year as well.

Councilmember Musgrove stated that she enjoyed the wood duck house and puzzle contest events. She asked if this presentation would be available online for residents to review.

Recreation Coordinator Proulx confirmed that could be posted to share with the residents.

Commissioner Olson appreciated the creativity and excitement which creates diverse programming for the residents.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood called attention to the partnerships mentioned by Recreation Coordinator Proulx as that is how the City is able to offer so many things while also building community.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated there are not any actionable items for December and did not anticipate a December meeting.

Councilmember Musgrove commented that she has appreciated her time as a liaison on the Park and Recreation Commission. She recognized the great job that Chair Barten, Vice Chair Sis and the other members of the Commission have done this last year. She thanked the Commission for its hard work.

Commissioner Arts referenced expansion of pickleball programming and asked if there are plans to convert the tennis courts to pickleball use at Central Park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that staff is looking to stripe the Riverdale courts for pickleball and there is an opportunity for additional courts on the Lord of Life site. He stated that there are plans to stripe one tennis court as four pickleball courts. He stated that they would look at that option along with the rehabilitation of the playgrounds.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Arts, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Barten; Commissioners Olson, Arts, Leistico, and Sis. Voting No: None. Absent: Commissioners Bennett and Ealain.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*