

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 8, 2026, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Acting Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Garth Anderson
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Shane Bennett
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent: Chair Megan Ealain

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood asked to reverse the order of the Commission Business items on the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as amended.

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated November 13, 2025

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: 2025 Program Review and 2026 Upcoming Programs (Previously Item 5:03)

Recreation Coordinator Proulx highlighted the programming and event offerings from 2025. She also provided an overview of upcoming programming opportunities and events.

Acting Chair Barten thanked staff for the update and all the great offerings.

Commissioner Bennett commended staff for continuing to build great programming offerings for the community.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood encouraged residents to sign up for the newsletter, which highlights parks and recreation programming and event opportunities.

5.02: Playground Replacement Program 2026 – Riverdale Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on the Playground Replacement Policy and the five playgrounds that have been replaced. He noted the playgrounds that the Commission and staff reviewed as candidates for 2026 and commented that, because of the high level of use, it is recommended that Riverdale Park be replaced for 2026. He noted that \$120,000 was programmed into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for playground replacement in 2026.

Acting Chair Barten agreed that Riverdale Park makes sense, noting the large number of young families in that area.

Commissioner Bennett noted that the Commission met at that location last summer to review the playground, and it had a high amount of use during that time.

Consensus of the Commission was to acknowledge that Riverdale Park is the subject of the 2026 playground replacement project.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that staff will plan to bring back a variety of options for the Commission to consider.

Commissioner Arts recognized that one playground per year is slated for replacement and asked if that is sufficient or whether there would be a need to increase that number in the future.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood believed that one playground per year for replacement is sufficient, noting that maintenance and upkeep are still completed on the parks system as needed. He reminded the Commission that the Lawful Gambling Fund is used for the playground replacement program, the funding of which is sufficient for just one playground per year.

5.03: Community Development Block Grant Funding for The Waterfront (Previously Item 5.01)

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. He stated that staff would like to submit an application and provided information on the proposed request. He stated that the City Council would consider this recommendation at its meeting on January 13th in order to meet the application submission deadline later this month.

Acting Chair Barten agreed that it would make sense to apply for additional funding for the project.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to recommend City Council approval of the application to Anoka County for Community Development Block Grant Public Service funding for improvements at The Waterfront.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that bid documents were released earlier this week for The Waterfront project with a bid submission date of January 26th.

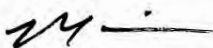
7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.