

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on August 13, 2026, at The Draw, 7401 East Ramsey Parkway NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Garth Anderson
 Commissioner Todd Arts
 Commissioner Megan Ealain
 Commissioner Laura Moore
 Commissioner Dean Olson

Commission Members Absent:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CITIZEN INPUT

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

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

- Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated July 9, 2026

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Playground Replacement Program 2026 – Riverdale Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood provided background information, noting that the Commission selected Riverdale Park for the 2026 playground replacement program, but the project was paused to allow staff to apply for funding for poured-in-place surfacing versus engineered wood fiber. He stated that staff applied for the grant but was not selected, so staff is presenting the same project the Commission selected earlier this year and recommends moving forward with the engineered wood fiber. He stated that the proposed project budget fits within the allocated budget of \$125,000. He stated that if recommended for approval by the Commission, this would move forward to the City Council at its August 25th meeting. He anticipated that the project could then occur this fall to be ready for use this spring.

Councilmember Peters asked if there is an anticipated annual maintenance cost.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood stated that they have reviewed the maintenance costs several times at the Commission level and explained that it would depend on what is included. He described the weekly activities of park staff and different maintenance activities that are completed. He noted that as playgrounds age, there is more maintenance required by staff, and there is a point where playgrounds become very costly to keep in good condition.

Councilmember Peters asked if the proposed elements in the playground would require any different type of maintenance than the other playgrounds.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that these are high-quality materials that really have minimal maintenance needs for 10 to 15 years.

Motion by Commissioner Barten, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to recommend City Council approval of Flagship Recreation's proposal Option 2A for Riverdale Park's playground replacement at a not-to-exceed amount of \$125,000.

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

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

6.01: Consider the Park and Recreation Commission Presence at the 2026 Happy Days Festival

Recreation Coordinator Proulx provided information on the upcoming Happy Days Festival and invited members of the Commission to assist in staffing the City booth and other volunteer opportunities.

Commissioner Moore asked for more information on the staffing of the City booth and whether members of other Commissions also staff the booth.

Recreation Coordinator Proulx commented that there are some members of City staff at the City booth, along with members from this Commission. She provided information on the typical shifts.

Chair Bennett asked interested members of the Commission to email the Recreation Coordinator with their availability.

6.02: August Recreation Program Update

Recreation Coordinator Proulx provided an overview of August recreation programming opportunities, noting the success of the adult sports league offerings and providing an update on the farmers market. She also noted an upcoming archery camp opportunity.

Chair Bennett recognized the great work of the Recreation Coordinator to continue to bring new opportunities to the community.

Commissioner Moore asked if there would be an opportunity to host an adult fall volleyball league at Adrenaline Sports.

Recreation Coordinator Proulx noted that there is interest in indoor adult sports leagues and while Adrenaline would be an option, the space has high demand and there would be a higher cost for that. She noted that staff will continue to seek partnership opportunities. She commented that the volleyball and soccer leagues were hosted at The Draw, utilizing the field space to the east.

Chair Bennett asked staff for an update on The Waterfront.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that residents and visitors have been enjoying the features of the park. He provided an update on the plans to keep people out of the storm pond.

Commissioner Arts asked if there is an update on the courts at Central Park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Director Riverblood commented that the cracks are an aesthetic concern and they have not yet had success in obtaining a contractor for the project. He stated that a resurfacing of the courts at Riverdale Park is needed, but they also have not obtained contractor interest in that project. He provided additional information on the lifespan and maintenance needs of sports courts.

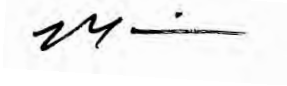
7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Ealain, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Director

Drafted by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.