

**RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**  
**RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION TRAINING ROOM**

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gale Pederson at 6:02 pm at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building, 2015 N. Van Dyke St, Maplewood, MN.

Attendance: Cedrick Baker, Metric Giles, Deb Falkowski, Candy Petersen, Gale Pederson, Bryan Shirley, Rich Straumann, Kong Vang

Absent: Brian Tempas

Staff: Jon Oyanagi, Mark McCabe, Ken Pelto, Ryan Reis, Shar Whebbe

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda was so moved with no changes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deb Falkowski moved for approval of the November 9, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Kong Vang.  
*Motion carried.*

**PROGRAM OUTREACH PRACTICES**

**Ken Pelto**

Programming in the regional parks this summer focused on reaching audiences that are typically difficult to reach and underserved. Programs including free, pre-paid, and group scheduling were offered in different areas in an attempt to reach a diverse audience. Approximately 11,000 people participated in these programs, and an additional temporary staff person was hired to meet the needs of the growing outreach effort. Ken, along with other county staff, is participating in the Ramsey County Racial Equity Cohort pilot program to address issues of racial equity throughout the county. He will be applying identified best practices in his community outreach work and programming throughout the Parks and Recreation system.

*Informational only; no motion.*

**PARK ORDINANCE**

**Mark McCabe**

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Parks Ordinance has been reviewed by this Commission, as well as other county agencies including the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and the Ramsey County Attorneys Office, and is moving into the final stages of revision. Additionally, staff sought community input via surveys and summarized comments and trends from those surveys. Grammatical and minor changes have been adopted into the document. Substantial changes were presented for final review and revisions will be presented for final approval from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Rich Straumann made a motion move forward with identified changes to the Park Ordinance, seconded by Candy Petersen.

*Motion carried.*

## **ENERGY ACTION PLAN**

**Ryan Reis**

In partnership with Xcel Energy and other consultants, staff has developed an Energy Action Plan that will reduce energy usage, utilize renewable energy, and incorporate education and community outreach. A draft of the Energy Action Plan was previously presented and reviewed by the Parks Commission. The final plan report has been detailed and was reviewed. If we are able to incorporate the methods outlined in the plan, Parks and Recreation anticipates seeing a 30% reduction in energy usage throughout the parks and arena system. Staff will compile usage statistics and projections for a comprehensive and graphical review of the impact this plan will have once implemented. Staff will clearly define and add the fiscal impact and budget constraints to the plan. Rich Straumann motioned to adopt the Energy Action Plan with changes as suggested, seconded by Cedrick Baker.  
*Motion carried.*

## **FINALIZE 2016/2017 STATE OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS REPORT**

**Jon Oyanagi**

Topics for the Power Point presentation were presented for review.  
*Informational only; no motion.*

## **2016 WORK PLAN REVIEW**

**Jon Oyanagi**

The 2016 Work Plan was reviewed. The Energy Action Plan will be added to the 2016 Work Plan.  
*Informational only; no motion.*

## **ESTABLISH 2017 WORK PLAN**

**Jon Oyanagi**

The 2017 Work Plan topics were presented and reviewed. Additions to the work plan should include the ADA Transition Plan, the Energy Action Plan, continuous county improvement, snow making plans, exploring urban pocket parks, and the Youth On Boards Program. Additionally, joint meetings with surrounding cities including St. Paul, Roseville, White Bear Lake and Vadnais Heights will be added to the work plan. Kong Vang motioned to accept the 2017 Work Plan with changes identified, seconded by Rich Straumann.  
*Motion carried.*

## **REVIEW JANUARY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

**Jon Oyanagi**

A draft agenda for the January 2017 Parks Commission meeting was presented and reviewed.  
*Informational only; no motion.*

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

**Jon Oyanagi**

1. The County Board approved the Lions Park development with Vadnais Heights.
2. \$11,000 was donated from Caroline Foundation for Lake Owasso County Park.
3. The County Board Arena Tour on 11/22 was a success.
4. The Manitou Ridge Golf Course contract was awarded.
5. The legislative platform approved: Met Council, Legacy, Bonding, Mighty Ducks, and Emerald Ash Borer.
6. Public input meetings for Trout Brook Regional trail will happen in January, February and March.
7. The Lake Owasso final concept plan will be available for public comment in January.
8. The County Board adopted the Abilities Transportation Network Policy for pedestrians, bicycles, cars & vehicles, and commercial vehicles.
9. The Vadnais Sports Center outlot #6 is sold. All three lots have been sold and are in various stages of development. People's Bank, Gentry Academy, and Twin Cities Orthopedic are the owners.
10. The Ponds at Battle Creek and Keller pro contracts are being negotiated.

11. The Parks Ambassador Program through the Met Council has a new staff person.
12. The Life estate on the Hansen property in Bald Eagle/Otter Lake Regional Park will be Ramsey County property soon. We are working on the paperwork to take possession.

**REPORT FROM CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS**

No further reports.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to adjourn at 8:16 pm.

*Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shar Whebbe