

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Department

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:01 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Building in Maplewood, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Brian Tempas

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi, Scott Yonke, Sara Ackmann, Mark McCabe, Shar Whebbe

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Cedrick Baker moved, seconded by Deb Falkowski that the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kong Vang moved, seconded by Cedrick Baker that the minutes of September 06, 2015 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

RAILWAY MUSEUM AT LONG LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Jon Oyanagi briefly summarized the project. The proposed building sits on Federal government property and park property. Staff will research how that will impact plans, noting we will need approval from all property owners. Discussion ensued:

- Does the benefit outweigh all of the steps necessary to make this happen? *Parks & Recreation staff recommends this proposal does not fit both visually and conceptually. Additionally, the park is already congested, but we recognize their peak time may be opposite of ours which can be complimentary.*
- What would the relationship between the parties be? *Ramsey County Parks & Recreation would have to work out that agreement.*
- Does this really fit our vision? *It is recognized this would be an attraction and it fits into recreation, however, it may not fit with the other parks.*
- What is the first step in the process? *Permission from the Federal government is the first step, but they would like a solid answer to know if they should put that work in.*
- Are there any alternate options? *Yes, those are being explored.*

Scott Yonke presented the details of the project, noting it could be a long and complicated process including getting and easement from the Federal government. There would also be considerable site grading and retaining walls. There is no room for future expansion as the proposal stands. The project timeline is unknown as there are multiple mitigating factors.

Members of the Parks & Recreation Commission are undecided in support of the project, however, recognize exploring an alternate site may be beneficial. Staff will work on gathering more answers.

Ordinance Review

The Ordinance for the Control and Management of Park, Recreation and Open Space Areas and Facilities was reviewed with initial edits and additional suggestions were made. The finalized edits will be reviewed and discussed at the November meeting.

ARENA DISCUSSION

The Arena Taskforce was enacted to help guide Ramsey County with the 11 arena facilities and 13 sheets of ice that will be impacted from the phase out of R22 refrigerant in 2020. The community engagement plan began in October and goes through November. Sara Ackmann reviewed a statistical spreadsheet of data regarding arenas. Rinks that operate with multiple sheets of ice create cost savings. Two rinks with shared mechanical systems operate more efficiently than two independent rinks. Metric Giles stated that communities of color historically don't participate in ice activities. Could some be converted to roller rinks? Committee discussed other potential uses of arena facilities; dry floor events, concerts, roller skating, etc. Other municipalities will be watching closely to see what solutions Ramsey County comes up with. The committee has requested more information.

PROPOSED 2016-17 FEES

Jon Oyanagi stated fees are approved by the County Board. We researched industry standards and market rates to set fees. Furthermore, roughly 1/3 of the budget comes from fees and that has remained consistent. Sara Ackmann explained that based on a market study we changed the past practice of increasing fees on golf courses alternating years. Further, the quality of the courses have increased, so fees increased slightly and were brought in line with fees at Manitou Golf Course. Vadnais Sports Center is developing new programs which will lead to new fees. Mark McCabe stated Tamarack Nature Center is proposing a tiered fee structure to avoid going to the Board for new programs or each small program fee change.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **ADA Plan Update** – Community input phase begins in November with intentional outreach to users with disabilities.
- **Arena Task Force Update** – Task force still meeting and moving into community engagement phase.
- **Bike and Ped Plan Update** – The last meeting was successful and standing room only.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair and commission members had no report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Gale Pederson moved, Brian Shirley seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shar Whebbe