

# RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

May 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Gale Pederson, at 6:05 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department, 2015 N. Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, MN.

Attendance: Cedrick Baker, Deb Falkowski, Metric Giles, Gale Pedersen, Candy Petersen, Rich Straumann, Brian Tempas, Kong Vang

Absent: Bryan Shirley

Staff: Sara Ackmann, Ken Pelto, Shar Whebbe

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda was so moved with no changes.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kong Vang moved for approval of the April 13, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Brian Tempas.

*Motion carried.*

#### **HEALTHY FOOD PLAN**

Sara Ackmann

The county was approached by the Ramsey County Public Health department to spearhead a Healthy Food Policy. The intention is for this to be a template for the entire county. We are getting some feedback that patrons, particularly parents, would like some healthy food options in our recreational facilities. By using national USDA guidelines, staff are reviewing what changes we can make to purchase and offer healthy options. Staff will draft some language for the commission to consider as we move forward.

*Informational only; no motion.*

#### **PROGRAMMING UPDATE**

Ken Pelto

Ken Pelto is a Programming Specialist who joined Parks & Recreation in February 2016. He presented a power point giving a brief overview of his program goals, budget and initial activities that included Earth Day Clean-up at Tamarack Nature Center, The Story Trail, and scheduling dates with the Minnesota DNR and their MinnAqua fishing program. Outreach in the community has included professional engagement to shape the summer planning process. Public surveys helped collect broad information as to what respondents were most interested in seeing more of in the Ramsey County Parks. Program strategies include offering free drop-in programs, some paid programs, and partnering with community groups that already work with target audiences. The Commission encourages a strong collaborative effort between the Program Specialist (Ken Pelto) and Intern Kee Vang to establish well-rounded programs and resources, and asks for periodic updates from both Ken and Kee. The Commission would like to be kept informed of upcoming events for possible attendance.

*Informational only; no motion.*

#### **2015 CONSERVATION CORPS ANNUAL REPORT**

Sara Ackmann

The 2015 Annual Report was distributed and briefly reviewed.

*Informational only; no motion.*

## **GOLF ANALYSIS**

Sara Ackmann

The 2016 golf season started early, but not quite as early as 2015. Sara is working hands-on with Keller Golf Course staff, including Lancer Catering, to create a more synergistic, customer-oriented experience at the course. The Ponds at Battle Creek had some repairs this spring, and Goodrich created a more natural look by taking out the fence and creating a berm along portions of the west border. The agreement between the Hubbard family and Manitou Golf Course is up this year. Staff is currently seeking proposals for a new agreement with the same type of operational structure. There is an existing agreement with Island Lake that may also be up for new proposals as the current operator is considering selling. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation also participates in the First Tee program and is actively seeking other opportunities to reach out to the community.

*Informational only; no motion.*

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Sara Ackmann

Met Council CIP funding is \$10 million dollars in the governor's budget, but it's in limbo. Mighty Ducks is a grant program to fund ice arenas to improve air quality. The program was proposed at \$23 million dollars but is also in limbo. The Snow Angel program is a new, \$2 million dollar funded program to encourage efforts to get the community outside in the winter months. Staff is looking at applying for some of these funds.

*Informational only; no motion.*

## **LAKE OWASSO PLANS**

Sara Ackmann

A brief overview was given. The commission was asked to officially support staff in seeking of funding through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program for the redevelopment plans for Lake Owasso County Park which will consist of a new beach support facility, improved beach areas, a new picnic facility and restrooms as well as several site improvements throughout the park.

Candy Petersen motioned to approve supporting staff in seeking funding as outlined; seconded by Brian Tempas.

*Motion carried.*

## **FUTURE MEETING SITES**

Shar Whebbe

Discussion about possible future meeting sites was entertained. The Commission would be interested in possibly meeting at sites that would have greater community visibility such as the Rondo Library or local recreation centers. Discussion led into conversation regarding greater community involvement. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

*Informational only; no motion.*

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Commission would like to discuss the following items at the June 2016 meeting: update from Scott Yonke on the ADA Transition Plan; update from Kee Vang on Community Engagement; intentional and increased efforts for community visibility; and addressing transportation issues that can impact community involvement in programming.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report was presented.

## **REPORT FROM CHAIR**

No further reports were presented.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to adjourn 7:57 p.m.

*Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shar Whebbe