

# RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

June 8, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Rich Straumann at 6:06 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department, 2015 N. Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, MN.

Attendance: Cedrick Baker, Deb Falkowski, Metric Giles, Bryan Shirley, Rich Straumann,

Absent: Gale Pederson, Candy Petersen, Brian Tempas, Kong Vang

Staff: Jon Oyanagi, Shar Whebbe, Scott Yonke

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda was so moved with no changes.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Metric Giles moved for approval of the May 11, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Cedrick Baker.

*Motion carried.*

#### **BRUCE VENTO REGIONAL TRAIL**

Scott Yonke

Open house community meetings were held and resulted in positive and constructive comments with no major concerns. Consideration is being given to the ADA Transition Plan during the planning of the trail project for accessibility and safety. Studying traffic counts along with other measures will help guide phases of the project and what is financially feasible and economically sound. With \$5.5 to \$5.7 million dollars projected for project completion, staff will be seeking federal funding by applying for a Land Acquisition Grant to meet the funding needs. The application for funding is due in July. The request before the commission is to sign a letter of support in seeking this funding.

Cedrick Baker motioned to sign letter of support for seeking funding with recommended changes after electronic review of the revisions, seconded by Bryan Shirley.

*Motion carried.*

#### **TROUT BROOK REGIONAL TRAIL**

Scott Yonke

Project was developed a few years ago, and would connect the Vadnais/Snail Lake Regional Park to McCarron's Lake County Park. The corridor would provide another north/south regional trail connection. Plans are in the schematic phase but ready for community engagement. An overview of the plan along with possible challenges was presented. The request before the commission is to move forward with community engagement efforts for the Trout Brook Regional Trail master plan.

Bryan Shirley motioned to approve community engagement efforts for the Trout Brook master plan with intention to reach diverse communities, seconded by Deb Falkowski.

*Motion carried.*

#### **COMMUNITY VISIBILITY**

As the commission considers future meeting sites, it recognizes the need to have greater community engagement with the people we serve and intentionality in relationship building with the community. The commission requests staff inform

members of events or programs that would allow a commission member the opportunity to attend and foster such community relationships. Additionally, the Racial Equity Toolkit will be added to the July agenda for greater discussion. *Informational only; no motion.*

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

No further discussion.

#### **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPLEMENTATION**

Jon Oyanagi

Plan is being presented throughout the county at different cities for cooperative engagement and support for the plan. *Informational only; no motion.*

#### **MID-YEAR REVIEW OF WORKPLAN**

Additions to the work plan to include: a joint meeting with St. Paul Parks & Recreation to discuss racial disparities and community engagement efforts; Rondo Days presence (July); and identifying tour sites for August (July). *Informational only; no motion.*

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. ADA Update – ADA Transition Plan is being assessed for practicality of implementation to correct deficiencies. Staff will look into forming a committee to address how to approach changes in a holistic manner and how to prioritize projects.
- B. Community Outreach Update – Intern Kee Vang will be working limited hours over the summer doing some community surveys and engagement. The county is focused on a larger scale community outreach effort at an administrative level.
- C. Legislative Update – Bonding bill did not pass, and the bill that was considered did not include regional projects. We will continue to push bonding efforts, and there will be a more detailed update next month after the legislative session.
- D. Poplar County Park – Commissioner Huffman was approached by residents of North Oaks to build soccer fields in Poplar Park. Currently there is a compost site in the area. A master planning process could be initiated. Further discussion next month.

#### **REPORT FROM CHAIR**

- A. Energy Task Force – 90% of the energy we use is in the arenas. The Energy Task Force is looking at ways to be more energy efficient including the possibility of bringing in more natural light.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to adjourn 8:26 p.m.

*Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shar Whebbe