

# RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

August 10, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

### Park System Tour

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Gale Pederson at 6:05 p.m. on the bus at the Parks and Recreation Offices, Maplewood, MN.

Attendance: Cedrick Baker, Deb Falkowski, Gale Pederson, Bryan Shirley, Rich Straumann, Kong Vang

Absent: Metric Giles, Candy Petersen, Brian Tempas

Guest: Shirley Erstad, Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

Staff: Jon Oyanagi

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approval of the agenda was so moved with no changes.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rich Straumann moved for approval of the July 13, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Kong Vang.

*Motion carried.*

#### **Park Tour**

The group toured the new trail segment that runs from Long Lake Regional Park north to County Road H. The bus stopped at the large group pavilion in Long Lake Regional Park and the group walked to view the new bridge over the railroad tracks.

The next stop was Silverwood Park. Three Rivers Park District owns, operates and maintains this arts and environment themed park. Tom Moffat, the site manager, guided us through the park's development and current operation. The park is about seven years old as it currently stands. It was formerly a Salvation Army camp since the 1920's.

The third stop was at Como Regional Park. The bus drove past the amusement park, conservatory, pond and golf course. The group got out to walk at the pavilion to hear the Minnesota State Band, and see amenities such as the Como Dockside restaurant, and the concession operation that included kayaks, paddle boats, pedal cars, and a tour boat. The group had treats from the concession stand. The operation of the golf course, amusement park, restaurant, and concessions is all contracted to private vendors.

The final stop before the rain started was at the new Tuj Lub Courts near Keller Golfview Picnic Area. The storm clouds darkened the sky at sunset so it was difficult to see. The group went down the pervious asphalt trail to a vantage point to see the three courts. They were reminded that the grand opening has been pushed back to late May or early June of 2017.

The group summarized their thoughts about working at the booth at the Ramsey County Fair. The workers generally enjoyed the community contact. Many people wanted a "draw" or "attraction" like the water park passes drawing. Candy was popular and some booth visitors only wanted candy. The supply of candy and maps were depleted on Saturday leaving none for Sunday. A suggestion was made to have a large map of Ramsey County on display for reference of where people lived in relation to the parks and trails. The booth visitors could also point out their favorite parks and trails. The photos were great as references and more would be welcome. Many people do not differentiate between County and city parks. The commission recognizes we should be thinking about how to work on this in a memorable way.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved to adjourn 8:36 p.m.

*Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jon Oyanagi