

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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

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

Absent: Metric Giles, Bryan Shirley

Staff: Jon Oyanagi, 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 August 20, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Rich Straumann.

Motion carried.

WINTER RECREATION

Winter Recreation Area stakeholders have been meeting for the past year. At the September meeting, members will be discussing funding alternatives. One project being vetted is installing an artificial surface.

LEGACY FUNDING REQUEST

Applications for parks and trails legacy funds request was submitted on September 9th, 2016 which is used for the metro parks system, state parks systems and outstate regional parks. Allocated funds are used for projects including the following: Conservation Corps; Park Signage and Wayfinding; ADA improvements to begin repairing and replacing identified deficiencies throughout the parks systems; Master Plans including Battle Creek Park and Rice Creek Regional Trail; Outreach in Outdoor Programming; Volunteer Program; and site improvements including Battle Creek Park, the Bruce Vento Trail, and the Sucker Lake channel. The legislature will act on this during the spring session.

2017 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

The Supplemental Budget was presented to the County Board on Monday, September 12th, 2016. Some of the opportunities identified in the Opportunities and Challenges section of the budget report include Community Engagement, New Trails and Parks, the Winter Recreation Area, Centralized Fleet, Golf System Analysis, and Racial Equity to reduce disparities. Challenges in the current budget have been identified as acting on the Arena Task Force findings, locating a satellite maintenance facility, Tamarack Nature Center programming, addressing the deficiencies identified in the ADA analysis, the Statewide Health Improvement Plan, White Bear Lake water issues, and redesigning the Administration building. The work the department has identified to strategically achieve the goals of the County Board were outlined along with the performance measures by which progress will be measured. The 2017 Supplemental Budget will be approved in December 2016.

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Boys Totem Town – Ramsey County and Hennepin County are exploring opportunities to have a cooperative facility serving both counties. The current Ramsey County facility will eventually be vacated and there will be an engagement process to determine the repurposing of that facility.

2. Minnesota Civic Youth On Boards Program – Parks and Recreation has agreed to be involved in this pilot program which places high school students on various civic boards from January 2017 – May 2018. They will be present at the October meeting to discuss students sitting on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

REPORT FROM CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

No reports presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shar Whebbe