

# RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

January 13, 2016, 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 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building in Maplewood, MN.

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

Absent: Brian Shirley, Metric Giles

Staff: Jon Oyanagi, Sara Ackmann, Alisha Seifert, Shar Whebbe, Scott Yonke

Guests: Darren Tolbert (Commissioner Reinhart's Office), Erin Rupp (Pollinate Minnesota), Jim Taylor (Maplewood Parks & Recreation)

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda was so moved with changes.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Straumann moved for approval of the December 11, 2015 minutes with changes, seconded by Candy Peterson.

*Motion carried.*

#### FISH CREEK PLAN

Jim Taylor (Maplewood Parks & Recreation), Scott Yonke

This cooperative effort between city/county will be brought to the Board in a memo, not Board action. We are gathering engineer's estimates now and will go out for bid in March/April 2016. \$318K in state bonding money to be used for getting trail and parking area completed. This will encourage people to use site. A joint open house was held in December, during which 40-45 residents attended and gave positive feedback noting it is the right time to be utilizing the open space as its intended gearing more toward active recreation. There are some limitations due to conservation easement on property, but it will be ADA and bike friendly.

Rich Straumann motioned to endorse plan; seconded by Candy Petersen.

*Motion carried.*

#### DRAFT POLLINATOR RESOLUTION

Darren Tolbert (Commissioner Reinhart's Office), Erin Rupp (Pollinate Minnesota)

This resolution will make us a pollinator friendly county meaning limiting use of systemic pesticides and using best practices for pollinators. There is no application to private property, but will include education for community members for how to make a positive impact on their private property. It will identify habitat and improve maintenance practices including on golf courses. There are options for alternative solutions to what we are doing now, but it really shouldn't change a lot of practices and there will be no fiscal impact with passing the resolution. Discussion ensued and the commission gave thought to the longer-term financial impact this could have, requesting to see an assessment of changing over to organic pesticides and what we currently spend on systemic chemicals. Staff will provide this information as well as additional information to include in the resolution including geographical information, restoring, and maintaining habitat.

Kong Vang motioned to endorse resolution with additions; seconded by Deb Falkowski.

*Motion carried.*

### **MAPLEWOOD FITNESS COURSE**

Jim Taylor (Maplewood Parks & Recreation)

Maplewood Parks & Recreation would like to include the area just behind our building including the Gateway Trail for the creation of a Fitness Loop putting up 4 fitness pods. Pod 1 would be a partnership between city/county and would be located on county property just behind the courthouse (would require a use agreement). Total install = \$11,530. City would like to partner 50/50 with Ramsey County; break ground in spring and ready to use in summer 2016. Equipment would be climate acceptable, built locally and ADA complaint. Discussion ensued including ideas on alternate funding. Staff will explore funding options in next 30 days and prioritize according to staff recommendation on other proposals.

### **TAMARACK SITE PLAN UPDATE**

Scott Yonke

Parks & Recreation has a 2016 Legacy Grant for \$925,000 and a 2017 Legacy Grant \$194,000 for a site infrastructure phase of development to support build out. The plans include an alternate site entrance on Lorraine Avenue to create a better traffic situation; new parking lot design including an overflow lot, staff parking, and ECLC parking; larger turnaround to accommodate busses; designated bus parking; new internal trail structures; more programming areas which could include some tree removal; relocate trail along Otter Lake Trail as a regional trail. The Commission is being asked to give the ok to move forward with core areas by collecting bids and go forward into construction document phase (out to bid in June with construction starting after Labor Day). Consideration will be given to ADA compliance. Brian Tempas expressed concern about softening the impact of the increased asphalt area. Tempas motioned to move forward with recommendations; seconded by Rich Straumann.

*Motion carried.*

### **LONG LAKE REGIONAL PARK PLAN**

Scott Yonke

The City of New Brighton has plans to build athletic field (including lacrosse and soccer) and softball field, and would like to partner with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation. We originally had plans to build a picnic pavilion there so this is an opportunity to partner and combine resources on common areas such as bathrooms and parking. We have some bond funding we may be able to use for this project and are hopeful for bond funding this year. Our major use and the City of New Brighton's major use is compatible.

Rich Straumann motioned to endorse plan; seconded by Brian Tempas.

*Motion carried.*

### **ARENA TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Sara Ackmann

The Arena Task Force looked over the report and made some edits in anticipation of the report going to the County Board on 1/22/2016 and will be brought to Commission on 2/10/2016. Recommendations center around creating a priority of use (putting county residents first); alternate uses for arenas; and the process of how to move forward. There is some call for a fee structure that benefits county users/groups.

### **2016 WORK PLAN - PARKS TOUR**

The 2016 Work Plan was reviewed and topics have been added. The work plan is attached to these minutes.

### **STATE OF THE PARKS ADDRESS – MARCH, 2016**

Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in March, specific date to be determined. Gale Pederson and Rich Straumann will attend. Other commission members are welcomed.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Elect officers for 2017 - Current Chair (Gale Pederson) and current Vice-Chair Rich Straumann expressed interest in continuing their officer positions for 2017. Cedric Baker nominated both to remain in place. *Carried.*
- County Board approved the gap in funding for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail due to bids coming in over budget.
- Program Specialist Ken Pelto starts on 01/19/2016. This is a Legacy Grant funded position.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Kong Vang would like to make sure commission members are representing adequately. Jon Oyanagi will be reaching out to those members who have missed 3 or more meetings. The Commission recognizes the work we do is important to the residents and to Ramsey County as a whole and better work/discussions occur when all are present with a greater representation of our community

**ADJOURNMENT**

Rich Straumann motioned to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.; seconded by Brian Tempas.

*Motion carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shar Whebbe