

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
MAIN BUILDING MEETING ROOM BOYS TOTEM TOWN

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Gale Pederson at 6:07 pm at Boys Totem Town, 398 Totem Road, St. Paul, MN.

Attendance: Cedrick Baker, Metric Giles, Gale Pederson, Bryan Shirley, Rich Straumann, Brian Tempas, Kong Vang

Absent: Deb Falkowski, Candy Petersen

Staff: Jon Oyanagi, Shar Whebbe, Scott Yonke

Visitors: Nate Campbell (United States Army Corps of Engineers), Shirley Erstad (Friends of the Parks)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda as revised was so moved with no changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cedrick Baker moved for approval of the September 14, 2016 minutes with no changes, seconded by Brian Tempas.

Motion carried.

PIGS EYE LAKE PROJECT

Scott Yonke, Nate Campbell

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation in conjunction with The United States Corp of Engineers is conducting a feasibility study to be completed by March 2017 to develop a preferred concept on the restoration of Pigs Eye Lake in Battle Creek Regional Park. The goal is to restore, protect and create wetland habitats. Coordination partners include the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota DNR and St. Paul Forestry with considerations being given to flood stage impacts, environmental issues, and the overall project footprint. The feasibility study is fully funded by the Corps of Engineers, but the project costs would be shared 65/35. The early estimated financial impact to Ramsey County could be between \$1.7 and \$3.1 million. Ramsey County Parks and Recreations would consider collaborative partnerships with other possible stakeholders such as the City of St. Paul and seeking grant funding to offset the final project costs.

Informational only; no motion.

LAKE OWASSO COUNTY PARK REDEVELOPMENT EXERCISE

Scott Yonke

Community engagement meetings have begun regarding the Lake Owasso County Park Redevelopment. Both meetings were well attended and resulted in constructive feedback from citizens. There will be a third meeting held in November. Commission members participated in the same exercise presented at the community engagement meetings to get a comprehensive understanding of the potential scope of the project and what citizens are weighing in on.

Informational only; no motion.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jon Oyanagi

1. Summer to Winter Transition – Golf courses are winding down and arenas are gearing up. Water has been shut off in the parks.
2. Racial Equity – The Government Alliance for Racial Equity met today to continue developing a racial equity plan that will be presented at the November meeting. There is also an internal team on racial equity that meets regularly and will begin training management throughout the county in November.
3. Legacy Grant -
4. St. Paul ** Friendship Garden – The friendship garden will be located at Lake Phalen. At this point, Ramsey County does not have any financial means to partner with this project, but Parks and Recreation did provide the planning group with other possible resources.
5. Legislative Issues – Legacy funding and the bonding bill are upcoming legislative agenda items.
6. Lion’s Park – The City of New Brighton approved the development of Lion’s Park. We will be seeking bonding money to complete our portion of this project, which includes the parking lot and bathrooms.
7. NRPA – Jon attended the national conference last week and has some ideas for an indoor recreation space. He will continue to explore options and may present more information at a later date.

REPORT FROM CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. Kong Vang – The online shelter/pavilion reservation system may benefit from having better information about specific amenities for each space.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved to adjourn at 8:03 pm.

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shar Whebbe