

## RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 8th, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Parks Administrative Building  
2015 Van Dyke Street in Maplewood Minnesota

**Commission Members:** Chair - Gregory Williams (Chair), Leah Shepard, Mary Grams Basnight, Jordan Nelson, Brian Tempas (Vice-Chair), Dr. Tamara Mattison, Snowden Herr, Candy Petersen

**Staff:** Mark McCabe, Liz Flinn, Angela Marlette, ACET Staff: Rachel Engh

### Call Meeting to Order

*The meeting was called to order by Chair Gregory Williams. Snowden Herr motioned to approve the January 11, 2023, meeting minutes and accept the February 8, 2023, agenda; Brian Tempas seconded. Motion carried.*

### Upcoming Community Engagement with ACET: Liz Flinn and Rachel Engh

This will be the third project Parks has partnered with ACET staff on to engage with community. Rachel Engh shared a presentation that introduced ACET, its values, why this project / why now, activities, timeline, opportunities for site-based data collection and Parks Commission discussion. <https://www.acetinc.com/>

- Goal: Understand who is using Ramsey County Parks & Rec facilities currently
- Timeline: Design Study Jan/Feb, Design collection tools/protocols Mar/Apr, Phase 1/ Phase 2 data collection May, Data analysis and reporting June
- Several members including Greg and Leah Shepard declared interest with onsite data collection

Liz facilitated an advisory session with the members on the design phase: Questioned asked were:

- What data would you suggest we collect? What would you like to find out from the people we survey?
- What are ways you envision that we will be able to utilize the data collected?
- What connections or suggestions do you have for people or groups to assist with the data collection in both Phase 1 and Phase 2?
- Other suggestions included: Keep in mind what is not being said, explore use of QR codes, ensure the survey and survey takers are bilingual, ensure that we are looking at the data year over year, connect with other park agencies to see how they have done this and examine partnerships for shared data.

### Review Parks Commission By-Laws

- *Gregory Williams motioned to accept the By-Laws and was seconded by Jordan Nelson. All Approved and Motion carried.*

### Elect 2023 Parks Commission Chair and Co-Chair

- Candy Petersen nominated Gregory Williams as Chair for 2023 and Brian Tempas as Vice Chair, seconded by Brian Tempas. All Approved and **Motion carried.**

### Commission Chair Update

- Greg shared a video on how he used his passion for winter Fat Tire Biking to engage community by creating interest in the sport. He participated in the Ramsey County Winter Sampler and is also working with Now Bikes Saint Paul and other demo groups.
- Greg will email the group with updates of more events coming up.

### Commission Member Update

- Jordan reported that Ice Castles are up and running. Summer Camp registration at Tamarack still filled again in 10minutes, seems like this could be leveraged better if the demand is that high. Not to mention the equity in those that have the skills and access.
  - Mark agreed and we need to think creatively to offer more and increase capacity.

#### **Director Update**

- For the 2023 Legislative session, Mark is serving as liaison for the Metro Parks Implementing Agencies to Minnesota Legislators. Focus items are the Operations & Maintenance state funding and obligations, Lottery in Lieu of Sales tax percentage going to parks under statue restoration as well as Capital Improvement Bonding requests. Deferred maintenance does have serious repercussions and Parks is working to tell that story as well.
- In response to a question from the January 2023 meeting, if a Park Commission member has a question or would like to contact a Ramsey County Commissioner, they are to contact the Commissioner that oversees the district in which they reside.

*A motion for adjournment was made by Candy Petersen, the was meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.*

**Next Meeting;** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023