

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

April 12, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Parks Administrative Building
2015 Van Dyke Street in Maplewood Minnesota

Commission members in-attendance: Chair - Gregory Williams (Chair), Mary Grams Basnight, Brian Tempas (Vice-Chair), Dr. Tamara Mattison, Snowdon Herr, Candy Petersen

Staff: Ann White Eagle, Mike Goodnature, Angela Marlette

Guests: Amber Burnette and Bird Banding Team

Chair Gregory Williams called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. **A motion to accept the February 8, 2023, meeting minutes and approve the April 12, 2023, meeting agenda was made by Candy Petersen and seconded by Dr. Tamara Mattison. Motion carried.**

Commission Member Appointment Update: Greg Williams

There are three openings on the Parks Commission with terms to begin in June. There is a residency requirement. Districting appointment process is no longer done. Leah Shepard's and Candy's terms are expiring with another open from when Savannah stepped down mid-term. The deadline to apply has been extended to April 23rd, 2023. <https://ramseycountymn.granicus.com/boards/w/abdc5506d23de199>

Soil & Water Conservation Division (SWCD): Ann White Eagle

Bird Banding Presentation: Amber Burnett

Mike Goodnature introduced Amber Burnett and spoke about the bird banding efforts that began about 5 years ago in Long Lake Regional Park. Amber has Masters in Ecology and Environmental Education as well as a banding permit from the DNR. When she is not relentlessly stalking birds to identify you can find her at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Amber shared a presentation covering how the team gathers data on bird species that use Long Lake Regional Park to nest and/or as a stopover during migration. The data will also be used to determine habitat management efforts there. Major outcomes of the study are that half of the bird species banded at Long Lake are species that are showing either a moderate or significant decline as measured by the 2016 State of North America's Birds Report. Several near mythical bird species have been banded at Long Lake Regional Park including the Connecticut Warbler and Harris' Sparrow.

Board of Soil and Water: Resource Grants and DNR Grants

Ann reviewed the different grants that the Soil & Water division is pursuing.

- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BOWSR) 2023 Local Capacity and Buffer Law Grant
- Soil & Water Conservation District Aide Bill is in legislature which will allow funding to be ongoing and part of the general fund
- The Ramsey County Commissioners and Senator Betty Malcolm issued a challenge called the Mighty Mississippi Clean up, please let Ann know if you are interested in assisting
- DNR 2023 Central Battle Creek Oaks Woodlands Restoration Conservation Partners Legacy Grant
- In 10 years SWCD has received over \$3 million in competitive grant funding with the goal of creating and maintaining high quality habitat. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment has been crucial to being able to do this work.

- Restored 98 acres between Battle Creek Road and Winthrop Road with a \$362,000 match from The Parks & Trails Legacy fund at \$36,000. This area will be restored to Oak wood and open sand prairie.

Commission Chair Update: Greg Williams

- Commission members agreed to pursue an outdoor meeting during the summer in one of the parks.
- Reminder to review information from the cancelled March meeting pertaining to the playground project. Greg shared video report on this.
- Greg reviewed a letter that he emailed to the Parks Commission members about attendance and reminded members about the importance of their work.
- Angela Marlette communicated the Open Meeting Law information forwarded from the County Manager office as it pertains to virtual meeting attendance.

Commission Member Update:

- Candy let the Commission know that she moving to her sea-side dream home in Alabama and will not be reapplying for the Parks Commission. She suggested having a gathering for not only those members that have left the last few years but also to welcome the new ones in June.

Director Update: Ann White Eagle

- The Mississippi National River & Recreation Area National Water Trail Kickoff Meeting was interesting, as they highlighted what a city upstream is doing (Dayton). They also highlighted the Willamette River and efforts in Oregon to create recreation around and in the river. Because of this we now have some contacts for the Mississippi River Clean-up Event.
- The Rice Creek Watershed District City & County Partner Meeting there were presentations on street sweeping, ditches, facilities and a tour of a newly constructed carp barrier as well as a recap of their climate resiliency project that I attended last month.

A motion to adjourn was made by Candy at 7:50pm