



## RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Department: 2015 Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, Mn 55109

**Attendees:** Jessica Pitzel (1), Gale Pederson (2), Melissa Wenzel (6), Leah Shepard (AL), Candy Petersen (7), Bryan Shirley (5)

**Not in Attendance:** Mark Erickson (AL), Metric Giles (4), Brian Tempas (3)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Leah Shepard.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Candy Petersen motioned for approval of the May 8, 2019 agenda and Gale Pederson seconded.

All Approved. *Motion carried.*

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Melissa Wenzel motioned to accept the March 13, 2019 meeting minutes and Gale Pederson seconded. All

Approved. *Motion carried.*

### **Letter of Safety Issues at McKnight Crossing:**

Melissa recapped the tragic events that happened crossing the street Battle Creek Regional Park. Melissa would like this resolution to be on record to symbolically support safety measures on the portion of McKnight Road, south of Highway 94. This resolution will be sent to Ramsey County Public Works and the County Board Members. When creating the plan, Melissa used goals and criteria from the safety portion of the Transportation Development Plan on the Ramsey County website. Bryan Tempas has reviewed the resolution as well and assisted in creating. *Jessica Pitzel asked if there is follow-up that needs to be done.* This is meant to be a statement of support; therefore, no follow-up is needed.

**A motion was made by Gale and seconded by Candy. All Approved. *Motion carried.***

Melissa was commended for her work and thanked by her fellow commission members for their work.

### **Rice Creek North Master Plan Supporting Resolution:**

Benjamin Karp updated that the plan is currently out for public review. A supporting resolution will be requested at either this meeting or the next after comments have been received and any changes made. Currently, the Rice Creek North Master Plan is out for public review.

Ben presented a PowerPoint that reviewed the project goals, community engagement/equity analysis, concept plan, public review of the concept plan, 30-day public review of the Master Plan and proposed approval schedule.

*Melissa asked for more information on the park's ambassador program.* This has yet to be created and a leader would be sought to assist taking on that role. *Leah asked out of all the possible use options, how many are compatible with each other?* Ben clarified that these options still need to be studied for what all is warranted for the area. A preliminary analysis of the building is being conducted. Until the MET council adopts the plan, funding requests cannot be submitted.

Ideally, the Commission would approve the Plan at the June meeting as it will go to the County Board in August and proceed to the MET Council.



### Master Plans Update:

The upcoming Master Plans are as follows: Beaver Lake County Park, Lexington Ave Regional Trail and Battle Creek Regional Park.

Ben reviewed what is a Master Plan and why are they created. A Master Plan is a guiding document for the development of a trail, park or other resource that includes park boundaries and acquisition, stewardship plan, user demand forecast, development concepts, conflicts, public services, operations, public engagement and participation, equity analysis, accessibility and natural resources.

Regional Facility Master Plans are a required by both the Metropolitan Council and State Law but also aide the department in requesting the appropriate funding for Park and Trail development. Also, to ensure the wants and needs of the community, public partners and county are represented as well as creating a solid inventory analysis to work from.

Ben then reviewed the many public engagement steps, planning process development and different approvals sought to finalize the plan.

Regional Parks have a slightly different subset of guideline documents to be followed compared to County Parks. These plans generally go from most broad (overarching goals and principles) to more granular. For example: Thrive 2040 from the Metropolitan council down to the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation System Plan.

Ben then reviewed some of the goals and objectives for Beaver Lake County Park and how they are incorporated into its Master Plan. *Leah asked for clarification on managing natural resources for aesthetic enjoyment or for education.* This would need to be identified and detailed further in the plan.

*Jessica asked what drives using an outside consultant as opposed to doing the work in house?* While it will still be managed internally, work load demands for a three-person department drive the decision. *Melissa asked about the protentional for Beaver Lake to be a Regional Trail or other multi-model ideas.* Currently, feedback has asked for a loop and further engagement would need to determine other potential.

The Lexington Region Trail master plan process has begun. Ben reviewed the objectives which are set by the Metropolitan council and would be expanded in the process. Currently a site analysis is begin completed and then a public engagement process June through October. Stakeholder meetings will begin in September through early 2020. Master Plan document preparation will happen January through August with plan completion and adoption after August of 2020.

Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan in the furthest along in creating the community engagement section. Similar ideas as the previous Master Plans are the same as well as the Metropolitan council objectives which will be expanded as the community and stakeholders give their input. Ben reviewed the objectives. Ben will add "resource preservation" to the County Park objective list. Development is currently, in phase one which is the summer of engagement. June through August will be targeted stakeholder meetings. **August 21<sup>st</sup> is tentatively the first at large meeting.** *Jessica asked how stakeholders are determined.* There is list created from county departments, current users and look at who in the community could be a stakeholder (schools, rec groups, government) and invite them to this meeting. Ben is the project lead for this and can address any questions. *Melissa asked what are the thoughts behind when parks do cross busy intersections?* Definitely, to make them as safe as possible. Public Works had an open house for the redevelopment of Lexington Ave and Parks will work with this for Master Planning. Phase II, Inform and Develop, November 9<sup>th</sup> for design charette #1. December 2019 at large #2 to present the concept for feedback. Phase 3, final concept and public review. March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 final design charette and then out for public review May of 2020. October - November 2020 will be the draft master plan for public review. November – January 2020,2021 adoption by the Metropolitan Council. By the end of May, a landing page for Battle Creek should be available.



*A resolution of support on the Rice Creek North Master Plan from the Commission will be asked for at the June meeting when public review has closed.*

**State of the Parks Presentation to the County Board:**

Mark and Leah reviewed the State of the Parks presentation that was presented to the Board of Commissioners on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Emphasis was given to increasing diverse population use of the Parks and facilities as well as equity access. Leah did a great job presenting and the board had no questions. Discussion ensued regarding creating and making Parks Net Zero Energy parks.

**Community Engagement Opportunities:**

Ramsey County Fair Booth is July 10-14<sup>th</sup> and a note for volunteering will be sent.

Last weekend, a drone competition occurred on the fair grounds and was well executed. This is a great example of a creative way that areas can be used.

Rondo Days dates will be sent via email as they are not readily available on-line.

I can Programs through the DNR are partnering opportunities for Parks programming as well as residents.

**August Parks Tour:**

Save the date for August 2014. *Bryan suggested an ADA compliance tour or whatever feels relevant at the time.*

Mark said that special projects like Owasso and Beaver Lake would be useful to visit. Leah suggested that

guests/stakeholder can be invited again. Commissioners or their aides can be encouraged to attend as well.

**Director's Report:**

Earth Day had cleanup events happened, 40 volunteers at Tamarack. A great group of dedicated people. Battle Creek Park being more urban had much more garbage to collect but had over 50 volunteers. Mark visited Trout Brook Regional trail with his kids to pick trash and bumped into the new Commissioner Trista Matascastillo doing the same. Trails are often the last spaces thought of and the visit brought it to light. Mark announced that Gale Pederson is retiring from the Commission and will serve through June 2019. We appreciate her long service to the commission. Gale stated that it was a difficult decision, but she would rather visit the parks with the grandkids. She is grateful for what she has learned and had a deeper appreciation for the work, planning and people. We are proud to report Kris Lencowski, Operations Director, and his wife had a baby boy.

**Report from The Chair & Other Commission Members:**

*Bryan asked for explanation on the dry floor use for baseball camps and are there other instances and are they available to other businesses?* Mark explained that if an anchor tenant can use the facility for a substantial time then it makes sense to invest the staff payroll to make it available. Hourly rental is not available. The county will not be booking ice time for TRIA since there was no real ice time to be booked.

**Adjournment:**

7:30pm Gale and Melissa co-motoned for adjournment.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2019  
Parks & Recreation Administration Building