

**RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES**

May 12, 2021 – 6:00 PM  
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Chairperson: Leah Shepard (AL), Michael Berger (AL), Jordan Nelson (2), Brian Tempas (3), Metric Giles (4), Melissa Wenzel (6), Candy Petersen (7)

**Staff in Attendance:** Mark McCabe, Benjamin Karp, Brett Blumer, Mike Goodnature, Angela Marlette

**Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm**

*A motion was made by Candy Petersen and seconded by Jorden Nelson to approve April 14, 2021 Minutes and May 12, 2021 Agenda with edits made postponing to June the Parks Tour item and starting with the 2021 Deer Management Plan; **Motion carried.***

**2021 Deer Management Plan and: Mike Goodnature**

- Ramsey County Park and Recreation is the only department that does Archery Hunts in Ramsey County to help maintain the health of the deer herd and safety of its residents.
- Mike reviewed the 8 locations determined for fall hunts, time frame and public safety protocols.
- Ramsey County Parks & Recreation (RCPR) continues to work with MN DNR on sharpshooting efforts needed for those areas that are 3 to 10 times the target population. The DNR goal is 15-20 deer per square mile.
  - Often cities come to RCPR to help coordinate deer control efforts.

**Q&A:** *Brian Tempas asked about public safety concerns.* Most park users are familiar with the hunts and have not conveyed any safety concerns and very few displeased over the inconvenience of areas of parks being closed. *Melissa Wenzel asked if hunting areas change based on populations.* Yes, the counts dictate where the hunts occur. The 2021 hunts are anticipated to be the same overall.

- Mike is asking for a letter of support for the Deer Management Plan: *Brian motioned to support the 2021 Deer Management Plan, Jorden seconded while Metric abstained. **Motion carried.***

**Conservation Corps Update: Mike Goodnature**

- Due to COVID-19, last year High school Conservation Corps crews were not able to join Conservation Corp service.
- In 2021, crews will be meeting at Tamarack Nature Center to avoid carpooling to sites.
  - During the summer, time will be split between the Nature Center and greater Parks restoration work doing smaller projects that most contractors will not.
- Soil & Water hires Ameri-Corp workers each summer season.

**Q&A:** *Metric Giles asked is there is any tracking done with alumni students from the program?* While some keep in touch there is no formal tracking done and there is no reason this cannot be done.

**Racial Equity Topic: Advisory Committee on Appointments to Volunteer Commissions, Mark McCabe**

- A subcommittee was created from the Equity Action Circle to review applications for select Advisory boards as a part of a pilot.

- Mark participated in the meeting lending background before the Advisory Board made their recommendation to the County Board.
- Angie Marlette updated that the County Board anticipates making appointments at the May 25, 2021 board meeting.

**Battle Creek Master: Information Plan Update, Benjamin Karp**

- Ben gave an overview of the Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan project, a comprehensive review of the community engagement done in the creation of this plan as well as an equity analysis of the project which included the GARE analysis.

**Q&A:** *Programming and Public Services Gap analysis is something that Leah looks forward to seeing. Melissa asked how the priority list was established. It was a combination of items; from already secured funding, what the engagement of the community determined, and what items give the most benefit for the cost. Candy commented that the plan is very impressive. Metric asked at what stage the equity lens started taking place. It was in place from the very beginning starting with the Request For Proposals (RFP) for the consultant. Metric also asked about if the qualitative data and quantitative data has been separated by users and nonpark users. Ben shared examples of both and how it is all documented. Metric asked about work force representation in the Parks and how this applies to this project. That specific item was not addressed as a part of this project but can be in the future. Metric also asked, how Parks is engaging people beyond more pop-ups in an intentional way? Parks is working to form relationships beyond pop-ups by maintaining contact with community groups and asking for contact information. Metric would like to see more tracking of numbers and feedback.*

- Future steps toward implementing plan items would trigger an updated community engagement process. This will be needed since a master plan is a high-level 30 year guiding document.
- The next step is to publish the full draft for review and comment. Parks will ask for support from the Parks Commission and approval from municipalities before bringing the plan to the County Board for approval and ultimately to the Metropolitan Council for adoption.

**Director Update:** Mark reported that the Governors recent modifications of restrictions will greatly help access to park amenities and facilities. Outdoor gathering restrictions have been removed and Battle Creek Waterpark will be open this season.

**Commission Member Report:** Brain Tempas extended appreciation to Ben on this work and supports the work done.

*Candy Petersen made a motion to adjourn, meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm*

**Next Meeting:** June 9, 2021