



RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 12, 2019 – 6:00 PM

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT: 2015 VAN DYKE STREET, MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109

Attendees: Leah Shepard (AL), Gale Pederson (outgoing-2), Jordan Nelson (incoming-2), Brian Tempas (3), Metric Giles (4), Melissa Wenzel (6), Candy Petersen (7)

Guests: Jon Oyanagi Retired Parks Director, Scott Yonke Parks Planning Director

Not in Attendance: Jessica Pitzel (1), Bryan Shirley (5), Mark Erickson (AL)

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Leah Shepard.

New Commission Member for District 2, Jordan Nelson was welcomed to the Parks Commission. Jordan grew up in northern Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and made it his home. His background is in education and physical therapy and currently works with Minneapolis Parks & Recreation. Looked forward to getting involved with a Parks and Rec council that more directly impacts where he lives.

Each person in attendance introduced themselves and gave their background.

Mark McCabe presented departing Commission Member Gale Pederson with a recognition plaque and thanked her for her many years of service and dedication. Gale shared that she has a deep appreciation for what commissions do and the work involved providing excellent services.

Approval of Agenda & Approval of the Minutes

Melissa Wenzel motioned for approval of the June 12th, 2019 agenda and May 8th Meeting Minutes, Candy Petersen seconded. All Approved. *Motion carried.*

Planning Updates

Rice Creek North Master Plan: Scott Yonke updated the progress of the Rice Creek North Master Plan. Thus far two of the four cities have passed a supporting resolution of the Master Plan. The other two are anticipated the first part of July. Since the commission has had time to review the draft master plan, Scott is looking for a vote of support from the commission. Once all agencies have approved, it will be submitted to the County Board and then the Metropolitan Council.

- Melissa Wenzel asked about criticisms and feedback, it has been overall very positive and desirous of more amenities/access.
- Metric Giles asked to be shown the definite/measurable items in the Master Plan regarding the intentionality of Racial Equity and addressing accessibility in alignment with Ramsey County goals. Those areas are included both as part of MET council requirements and Ramsey County Goals. Since a Master Plan is a very broad vision guide plan, measurables will need to be determined when components are designated for implementation.
- Tracking is a requirement of funding, timelines for building cannot be done until funding is secured. The Master Plan is a document that is used to assist in securing funding.



- Leah asked about Performance Measures and their consistency across plans. Scott elaborated the requirement differences between Regional and County Parks and their sources of funding and thus equity and accessibility requirements. **Scott will bring the 2021-2022 grant performance measures to the commission for feedback.**

Candy Peterson made a motion supporting the Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment, with Melissa seconding and Metric abstaining. *Motion carried.*

Keller Regional Park, Final Phase Improvements: Most site improvements have been complete with updated signage and Lakeside area parking lot resurfacing left to be done approximately spring of 2020. An ADA accessible trail will be added to connect the archery and Phalen trail connections. Parking and pavement issues are being addressed with the Golfview area. Scott asked for any questions or input.

Battle Creek Master Plan Update: SRF Consulting has been hired to assist with community engagement because of the complexity of the stakeholders and user groups involved. This will set the guide for future master plans on how the community can be fully engaged in the process.

- Meeting end of June at the Hmong Town Market Place.
- Melissa expressed concerns on reaching the high population of renters, yes will have meetings at complexes and popup meetings at the Parks. Melissa has a list of events that the District is doing and will get them to Scott. Also expressed concerned about safe access points to the park and access to Somali translator.

National Recreation and Parks Association, Re-accreditation Visit

Angie Marlette explained the re-accreditation process, the purpose of being a CAPRA certified agency, and where Ramsey County Parks is in the process using a PowerPoint presentation.

- Commission members are invited to join the NRPA visitors and staff for a picnic on Thursday, June 27th at Keller Regional Park.
- Visitors are from Colorado, Kansas and North Carolina

Community Engagement Opportunities

Mark reviewed the multitude of engagement opportunities listed on the agenda.

- Commission members are welcome to assist in staffing the Pop-up booths for Master Plan community engagements.

August Parks Tour

There is no commission meeting scheduled for July, but the August Parks Tour is scheduled. Mark explained the draft route and topics of the tour. Commission members are welcome to invite guests and community partners.

- Metric wants to encourage the group to make appearances at Rondo Days, Jazz festival and Grand Ole Days and does Ramsey County has volunteers that can assist. Mark said there are volunteers in the Parks system at TNC as well as Dog Parks and perhaps the Libraries.

Directors Report

- Scott was asked to update that the County received 4.3 Million dollars from Lessard-Sam's for funding of the Pig's Eye project. An agreement has been signed with the Army Corp of



engineers. and design will start shortly with construction summer to fall of 2020. Keep an eye out for a ground-breaking ceremony.

- Mark reported the Legislative session with no change, but no additional funding as well.
- Golf had a rough start to the year but is now catching up.
- Scott updated that the TCAPP land transfer has happened and the county is now officially owners of 93 acres.

Report from Chair & Commission Members

- Melissa reported that the Fish Hatchery trail fix has been approved at 90% Federal match after much advocating by many groups. It's the only trail that connects SE Twin Cities to downtown St. Paul. Bypassing crossing Highway 61.
- Candy committed on how the nice the front office looks after the remodel.
- Leah reported she heard that the Maplewood Nature Center may turn management over to the YMCA. Candy will see if there is any information to share.
- The recreation services supervisor position first round interviews begin tomorrow.

Adjournment

7:50 pm Candy Motioned for adjournment.

Next Meeting: August 14th, 2019 Parks Tour
2015 Van Dyke St. Maplewood, MN 55109
6:00 pm