

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday October 9, 2019

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

Attendees: Leah Shepard (AL), Jessica Pitzel (1), Jordan Nelson (2), Metric Giles (4)*, Candy Petersen (7)
Bryan Shirley (5)

Not in Attendance: Brian Tempas (3), Melissa Wenzel (6)

Staff: Kris Lencowski, Ann White Eagle, Ken Pelto, Liz Amici-Floyd, Angie Marlette

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Leah Shepard.

Approval of Agenda

Candy Peterson motioned for approval of the October 9, 2019 agenda, Bryan Shirley seconded. All Approved.

Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Bryan motioned to accept the minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting and Jordan Nelson seconded. All Approved. *Motion carried.*

Soil and Water Conservation Division: State of The Water Forum, November 21, 2019 and Local Capacity Grant Work Plan

Ann White Eagle: Director of the Soil & Water Conservation Division

The forum will be at the Arden Hills location and will discuss the zebra mussel outbreak and the AIS (aquatic invasive species) work being done. Local Capacity Grant: A grant that is from BWSR (Board of Water and Soil Resources) The governing agency for soil and water conservation districts, statewide. These grants help to pay their staff and take care of overhead since the division is self-funding. The SWCD Comprehensive Plan that contains all the items that BWSR would review for effectiveness. This plan as well as the annual plan can be found online. Ann reviewed some of the projects from 2019: Lilydale stabilization project, Metro Children's Water Festival, AIS Detectors class, Bio-volume Studies, Right Track Program, Pollinator Puppet Shows, Site Visits for Stormwater Capture, Urban Agriculture Initiative, Annual Tour and Ground Water Report with Schools. Michael Schumann received Partner of the Year award from the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District. Andrea Prichard has now left to study hydrology with the University of Minnesota in Equator and Bolivia. Ann would appreciate any input regarding forum topics, location of tours or other projects.

Program Updates: Aquatics and Outreach Programs

Kris reviewed the history of passive recreation in parks programming and how its changing to assist in reaching racial equity goals and draw more people into the parks. Kris introduced Ken Pelto and Liz Amici-Floyd parks programming team. Ken and Liz presented the many programs and variety of residents served in the Ramsey County Parks.

Programs:

- Free & Open Programs such as Fishing, Archery, Pond Dipping, Scavenger Hunts, Paddle Boarding...
- Weekly Programs at McCarrons partnering with Libraries, Tamarack and Trout Unlimited
- Partnerships with City of Roseville "Discover Your Parks" and New Brighton "Cops n' Bobbers"; The Family Place

- Disc Golf, Archeology Digs, S'More Summer Fun, On-the-go Summer Camp, Public Lands Day, WaterFest, Take Aim at Summer Fun (Keller hosted with DNR), PINE Program
- Public Engagement with District 2 Community Council
- Future Collaborations with Met Council and Asian Media

Recap of the 2019 Aquatics Season:

- Introduced the Band App as a Communication and Team Building Tool
- Attendance Stats and Revenue for Beaches and WaterWorks
- Safety Recap, Staffing Diversity, Future Staffing Compensation
- Re-Opening of Snail Lake Beach
- Racial Equity Training and Sexual Harassment Training

Upcoming:

- Asian Media Collective partnership at Battle Creek
- Strategic Planning for future programs, partners, staffing, resources available
- Return of the Winter Recreation Area at Keller, warming hut contributed to success

Directors Report: Kristopher Lencowski: Director of Parks & Trails

- Tamarack Trick-or-Treat event; Oct 26th already sold out with a wait list.
- November 5th Special Election for the District 1 Commissioner
- Battle Creek Master Plan public engagement presented results of the first round of online and in-person sessions, November 2nd, 9a-12p Design your Park meeting

Report from the Chair & Other Commissioners

Jessica encourage use of the Nextdoor App to post local events and reach out to local neighborhoods.

Candy reported that other golf courses cannot support the First Tee program like the Ponds at Battle Creek. There is a fundraiser at Town and Country, \$99.00 and goes for scholarships.

Jessica reported that she has been educated about Buckthorn and its now an avid destroyer of this invasive species.

Adjournment

Candy motioned for adjournment at 7:35pm.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2019