

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA

November 18, 2020 – 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Attending: Chairperson: Leah Shepard (AL), Michael Berger (AL), Jordan Nelson (2), Brian Tempas (3), Metric Giles (4), Bryan Shirley (5), Melissa Wenzel (6), Candy Petersen (7)

Guests: Kristopher Lencowski, Lisa Hanson Lamey, Angela Marlette

Absent: Jessica Pitzel (1)

Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

- Commission members unanimously approved the October 14, 2020 Minutes and November Agenda.
- Director's Updates:
 - Covid19 Update: staff that can work remotely will continue to do so and those onsite continue using social distancing/masking/safety protocols.
 - Viewed Winter Fun Brochure draft highlighting activities and amenities available (Digital Version sent to Commission).
 - Select locations have year-round portable toilets
 - Information about Battle Creek Rec Center rentals will be provided when completed by the City of St. Paul.
 - Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area Update: Working on a plan to fill the funding gap that exists and are aiming for Winter 2022.
 - Twin Cities Orthopedic Turf Facility: Lisa updated that construction is complete. Depending what information comes from the Governor's office tonight, we anticipate the Grand Opening will most likely be postponed until later December.
 - Reminder: No meeting in December and thank you all for the Commission's volunteerism through the year!
- Parks Commission Community Engagement Recap: Leah Shepard/Lisa Hanson Lamey
 - The role of the Commission can be discussed further January meeting.
 - Outcome: Look in to creating a general mailbox for the public to email the Parks Commission. Recommend using the Parks@ramseycounty.us for this.
 - Learned how engagement and events were going to be done.
 - Parks Commission members can participate in a general role as well as a project specific role.
 - General: Receive and provide feedback on design, provide feedback on monitoring and evaluation, contribute as key stakeholders, advise and monitor on implementation.

- Project Specific/Individual Role/Community Member: Review and contribute to the draft design, participate in stakeholder mapping workshop, contribute ideas on partners, provide direct support (welcome participants, post information) in implementation.
 - The Commission is interested in another training meeting.
- West Side Community Engagement Design update: reviewed the Draft Engagement Design plan with project objectives, engagement objectives and commitments in collaboration.
 - Confirmed that the County Commissioners are utilized in this design
 - Confirmed that a variety of engagement techniques are used to reach those that fall into the high interest but low power area to ensure all voices are heard.
 - Draft Plan will be sent to Parks Commission for further feedback.
 - Timeline: Finalize plan and develop Community Engagement plan to launch early 2021.
- Parks Shelter Survey Review: Kris Lencowski
 - 2020 rentals were down 50% hence less respondents over previous years.
 - Some highlights are: 84% - Excellent experience with the reservation process, Customer Service Staff satisfaction trending down perhaps due to a loss of one FTE, Cleanliness & Maintenance trending up, 45% - Restroom Cleanliness down-considering they were not open a portion of the year due to COVID, 92% - felt very safe in the parks even though petty thefts were up, 80% - Overall positive experience.
 - Kris reviewed specific comments highlighting that the increase in wedding and funerals due to COVID19 allowances of outdoor gatherings.
 - New addition to the survey was a demographics question and how to make it more attractive to different cultures and races:
 - 12.77% Asian, 4.26% Black, 74.47% White, 2.12% American Indian/Alaskan, 6.38% Latino, 4.26% Prefer not to answer, 4.26% Other-Not sure why it matters.
 - Challenges with the reservation system, lowering prices, some already think it is diverse.
 - Updates: New reservation system anticipated since current one is ending support. Improved training and organization of Maintenance staff, New signage in the parks involving the Park Ordinances, Streetlight data.
- Planning Team Update:
 - Battle Creek Master Plan Concept Plans, [Link to BCMP Concept Plans](#) are now viewable to the public and available for comment.
 - Beaver Lake 30-day Public Review, [Link to Beaver Lake CP Public Review](#)
 - Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan:
 - Completing minor edits as requested by Metropolitan Council Parks Planning staff as a result of their initial review. A completed revised document will be made available for viewing on the Parks website when completed.
 - The master plan is scheduled to be on the January 2021 approval schedule. The meeting approval schedule is as follows:
 - Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)

- Community Development Commission
 - Metropolitan Council
- Battle Creek Regional Park - Pigs Eye Lake:
 - Completing minor edits to the master plan document as a result of the 45-day public review period.
 - Seeking a supporting resolution from the City of Saint Paul.
 - Plan to submit the Pigs Eye Master Plan amendment to the RC Parks and Recreation Commission in December for final review/comment.
 - Seek approval/recommendation from the Parks Commission **in January 2021** for submission to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.
 - Submit for Approval from the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners late January/early February for submission to the Metropolitan Council for review and approval.
- 2021 Work Plan Reminder for January Meeting: Will send out framework 2 weeks ahead of January meeting in preparation to discuss creation/refining of the 2021 Work Plan.
- Commission Member Updates:
 - Melissa Wenzel updated that Boys Totem Town property is being assessed if there are Native artifacts present. Concerns that there is a need for housing and not more green space. Still contention around the closure of the Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course.
 - Reminder that there is a Town Hall being hosted by Maplewood regarding Community Redevelopment at the Ponds.
 - Brian Tempas mentioned the inordinately high amount of wildlife activity in the Lake Como area. Perhaps due to people being home more and seeing the activity or less traffic allowing more movement.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2020
No Scheduled December Meeting