

# RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2014 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:02 p.m., at Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Members Present: Gale Pederson, Deb Falkowski, Rich Straumann, Candy Petersen, Bryan Shirley, Brian Tempas, Phil Jenni

Members Absent: Jack Ditmore

Staff Present: Greg Mack, Jody Yungers, Kara Country

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Brian Shirley moved, seconded by Richard Straumann, that the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission be approved as emailed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deb Falkowski moved, seconded by Rich Straumann, that the minutes of January 12, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2012 – 2013 STATE OF THE PARKS REPORT**

The State of the Parks Report was signed by present Commission members and it was agreed that the Parks Commission members should present it to the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners (estimated to occur on March 11<sup>th</sup> or March 18<sup>th</sup>). A give a brief PowerPoint presentation of the report will be prepared to facilitate the County Board Presentation.

### **2014 WORK PLAN**

Bryan Shirley moved, Rich Straumann seconded that the 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Program be approved as amended below (attached is a copy of the revised Work Plan). Motion carried unanimously.

Philosophy/Strategy – Change in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sentences of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to read: “The Commission is more effective when members interact with, talk to, and listen to city, township, county parks and recreation officials, and the general public. The Commission will strive to communicate with local governments and the general public on an ongoing basis, looking for partnering opportunities whenever and wherever they arise.”

Planning and Development Projects – Added, “Review plans for the Highway 96 Regional Trail crossings at I-35E and I-35W.”

Special Projects – Revised the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullets to read:

- Maintain communication with the County Board on critical issues pertaining to parks, trails and recreation services.

- Continue to establish positive working relationships with municipal parks and recreation commissioners, citizen advocacy groups (e.g. Friends of the St. Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Trails), and elected officials.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Greg reported that his team is diligently working to complete CAPRA and anticipates the self-assessment to be complete by the end of March. The CAPRA visitation team will most likely arrive the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. An event will be scheduled that will allow the Commission to meet with the CAPRA visitation team.

The trustee for the bond holders of the Vadnais Sports Center (USC) has filed a petition to the Ramsey County District Court to authorize the sale. If the District Court finds that the sale is in the interest of the bond holders, the Vadnais Sports Center purchase could move forward and closing could occur as soon as the end of May. Apart from the County's cash offer, there is one other offer on the table.

The Twin Cities Army Ammunitions Plant deal is becoming more complicated. Parks redevelopment plans may incorporate a parkway that will serve the trailhead, provide vehicular access to the former Primer/Tracer area and the mixed use redevelopment area to the south.

Greg Mack will be holding a celebratory last day reception at Keller Golf Course Clubhouse on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **REPORT FROM CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Phil Jenni mentioned the Star Tribune's recent report on the emerging trend for "fat tire bikes". He noted that nothing is being done on the east side to groom for these bikes. Greg had noticed this was an emerging activity and recently passed along an article about it to our Director of Park and Trail Operations for considerations. It was discussed that perhaps we could enlist more volunteer groomers like those for cross country ski trails at Battle Creek to groom for fat tire bikes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kara Coustry