

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

APRIL 9, 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, Phil Jenni

Members Absent: Jack Ditmore, Brian Tempas, Amy Kircher

Staff Present: Greg Mack, Jody Yungers, Kara Coustry, Mike Goodnature

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Candy Petersen 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 February 12, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA PRESENTATION

Jody Yungers shared a PowerPoint presentation about changes affecting our arena system. With an overall decline in the demand for ice time, and an increase in the supply of ice arenas, the Department's response has been to develop long-term primary user agreements for sustainability. Now ice arena users want higher quality amenities to support their programs and are willing to make capital investments to our arenas for things like dedicated locker rooms, community meeting rooms, dry land training areas, concession stands and expanded seating capacity. In an effort to provide a transparent process for allowing capital investment in County arenas by regular users (public and private), Parks and Recreation asked the County Board to authorize the County Manager to issue Request for Proposals (RFP's) and to allow board approved agreements. The County Board was receptive to working with groups to implement improvements, but was skeptical about using an RFP process. Staff was asked to prepare principles, criteria and a public involvement process for handling these requests from existing customers.

NEW PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER

Amy Kircher has been appointed to represent District 4 on the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission for a term beginning March 25, 2014 and ending June 1, 2017.

CAPRA VISITATION TEAM

The CAPRA visitation team is expected to be here July 14-17. July's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be moved from 7/9 to the following week on 7/16 to coincide with their visit. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Tamarack Nature Center. Dinner will be provided.

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN – 2014

Deer surveys conducted in January and February, 2014 revealed 983 total deer (an increase of 204 over last year). There were 260 reported car/deer collisions in 2013. Parks and Recreation is proposing the County Board approve special archery hunts on 11 of its properties in the fall of this year. Additionally, the Department is seeking approval to use city funded sharp shooters to remove deer on city owned and Ramsey County land within the cities of St. Paul and Maplewood. Sites included in the 2014 proposed Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program include: Bald Eagle – Otter Lake Regional Park, Battle Creek Regional Park and the Pig’s Eye unit, Snail Lake Regional Park, Poplar Lake County Park, Kohlman Marsh Open Space, Turtle Creek Open Space, Fish Creek Open Space and Rice Creek North Trail Corridor. Mr. Straumann moved, seconded by Ms. Falkowski that the Commission recommend approval of the proposed 2014 Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Greg Mack asked all Commission members to join him at Keller Golf Course Clubhouse on April 30th (3pm – 6:00pm) to celebrate his last day as Parks and Recreation Director.

Once the ice melts, the Keller Regional Park Boardwalk will be completed, including the fence sides. The grand reopening celebration for Keller Golf Course will be coordinated with the grand reopening of Keller Regional Park, scheduled for June 28, 2014.

A consultant team has been hired for the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Alignment study.

A consultant has been hired to prepare a master plan for the Trout Brook Regional Trail.

Design/build teams presented proposals on April 18 for the Early Childhood Learning Center at Tamarack. A contract will be awarded within the next month for Part I Services (design shop).

Bids exceeded the budget for the Manitou Ridge Golf Course maintenance shop but the Department is recommending reallocating funds from other completed projects to cover the cost.

The Keller Golf Professional resigned on March 14, so we solicited proposals from golf professionals within the County’s system. Based on proposals, the Department has drafted a contract and will be recommending a Golf Professional to the County Board on April 22, 2014.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Rich Straumann reported some large branches were hanging over the turf walking trails at Rice Creek and brought one in to share with the group.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry