

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

MAY 14, 2014

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:00 p.m., at Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Members Present: Gale Pederson, Jack Ditmore, Deb Falkowski, Rich Straumann, Candy Petersen,

Members Absent: Brian Tempas, Amy Kircher, Bryan Shirley, Phil Jenni

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi, Jody Yungers, Kara Coustry

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rich Straumann moved, seconded by Candy Petersen, 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 April 9, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS

Before coming to Ramsey County, Mr. Oyanagi served as Parks and Recreation Director in Brooklyn Park for 6.5 years. Jon Oyanagi has more than 30 years of parks and recreation experience both in city and county government with past roles in parks and recreation departments in Minneapolis, Anoka County, Eagan and Saint Peter. Jon is in the process of pursuing a master degree in Public Administration at the Hamline University.

UPDATE ON BRUCE VENTO TRAIL

Loucks Associates was hired in March to complete preliminary design development plans for the extension of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. Currently Loucks is preparing base maps analysis on the proposed alignment for potential corridor issues and site impacts.

Schematic design development plans are expect mid to late May through June with the design development plans expected mid to late June through September

UPDATE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

Black Dew was selected as the design/build team. Partners and Sirny will be the architect on Black Dew design team. The Phase 1 agreement should be executed within the next week. A project kick off meeting is anticipated to be scheduled within a week or two.

Phase 1 Services including schematic design and design development are expected May-July time frame. Phase 2 Services including construction plans and construction are expected August 2014 – Spring of 2015. It anticipated construction will start late September to early October 2014.

UPDATE ON 3RD TROUT BROOK REGIONAL TRAIL EXTENSION

Loucks Associates was hired in March to prepare the Trout Brook Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment for the extension of the trail from Lake McCarrons County Park to Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park. Currently Loucks is completing an analysis on the proposed alignment for potential corridor issues and site impacts. Loucks is also looking at additional alignment routes through the County Rd C and Little Canada Corridor. Once an alignment has been finalized, Loucks will start preparing a draft Master Plan document. It is anticipated the Master Plan document will be submitted to the Metropolitan Council for approval by the end of 2014.

VADNAIS SPORTS CENTER UPDATE

There are currently two issues being addressed in negotiations of the Vadnais Sports Center purchase. We are asking for some routine maintenance totaling \$169,000 to be addressed prior to purchase, which include repair of a leaking condenser, leaking roof, bituminous premature cracks, lights, dead trees, landscaping and irrigation. Secondly, the City of Vadnais maintains there are conditions that apply to the sale of the two out lots, but we assert these conditions do not apply. We hope to close on this deal by the end of June with position on July 1st. We will operate a transitional plan from July 1st through September 15th.

ARENA PROJECT PROPOSAL PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

The County Board requested staff to prepare principles, criteria and a public involvement process for handling requests for arena projects from existing customers. This document provides a framework for vetting proposals for County arena improvements without necessarily requiring a formal Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. Dittmore moved, seconded by Mr. Straumann that the Commission recommend approval of the proposed Arena Project Proposal Decision Making Principles and Process as amended (with "proposed budget" being changed to "proposed financial plan"). Motion carried unanimously.

CAPRA VISITATION - CONFIRMED

The CAPRA team has confirmed their visitation dates for 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 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Tamarack Nature Center. Dinner will be provided.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On May 6th, the County Board approved the 2014 Deer Hunt. In the fall, bow hunting will occur at identified Ramsey County parks. For the first time since 2005, sharpshooters will also be used in the areas of Maplewood and Battle Creek.

We have had tires dumped along the Bruce Vento Trail on a couple of occasions. The first time a total of 92 tires were dumped and the second dumping consisted of about 25 more.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Dittmore wondered when the Keller Grand Opening would occur and when the golf course would be open for play – July 19, 2014.

Mr. Straumann attended a meeting at MNDOT and provided handouts of a new Metropolitan Map which was first presented as a rough draft at last year's State Fair. This trails map will go on the MNDOT website and displays a twelve county area.

Mr. Straumann reports that Active Living Ramsey County obtained Statewide Health Improvement Program Funding to hire an intern who will help build a map of trails/pathways for walking and biking upon the Ramsey County master plan.

There is an open house on May 20th to look at preliminary designs for a unique interchange at 35W and Hwy 96. Mr. Straumann expressed desire for a trail route across 35 W in the area of County Road H.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry