

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

JULY 16, 2014

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:35 p.m., at Ramsey County's Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Members Present: Gale Pederson, Phil Jenni, Deb Falkowski, Rich Straumann, Candy Petersen,

Members Absent: Brian Tempas, Bryan Shirley, Jack Ditmore

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi, Jody Yungers, Mark McCabe, Linda Koesling, Marcie Oltman, Kara Coustry

Guests Present: Greg Mack and the CAPRA Accreditation Team: Jim Grove, Raiford Peacock, Sean VonRoenn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Candy Petersen moved, seconded by Phil Jenni, that the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission be approved as emailed. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Straumann moved, seconded by Deb Falkowski, that the minutes of May 14, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

CAPRA

The CAPRA visitation team introduced themselves and thanked us for our hospitality as they just concluded their two day review of our self-assessment report. Accreditation is based on an agency's compliance with 144 standards for national accreditation. To achieve accreditation, an agency must comply with all 36 Fundamental Standards, and at least 85 percent of the remaining 108 standards. We met all fundamental standards and only missed two remaining standards.

Having successfully passed the self-assessment visit, the next step occurs at the Annual National Parks and Recreation Congress (Charlotte North Carolina, Oct 14-16). During Congress, reaccreditations are discussed and voted as the final piece to being re-accredited. Once CAPRA approved, we will also be required to submit ongoing annual reports identifying any significant changes within the agency relating to the accreditation standards.

VADNAIS SPORTS CENTER UPDATE

The Vadnais Sports Center is now officially a Ramsey County Parks and Recreation facility as of July 1, 2014. The Parks and Recreation Commission suggested holding our next meeting at the Vadnais Sports Center.

ARENA PROJECT PROPOSAL PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

- a. Hill-Murray submitted a proposal to enter into an agreement for a long term lease at Aldrich Arena. In exchange, they would fund the construction of a locker room additional that would then be turned over to the County. This proposal requires us install an elevator in order to meet ADA requirements. Eventually we would have to install an elevator anyway, but this proposal means doing so now. The County has identified funding for the elevator through the Capital Projects Fund, and has will move forward with the elevator project, whether the Hill-Murray project is approved or denied.

Phil Jenni expressed concern with regard to establishing a long term lease agreement with one sole entity. Jody Yungers believed this agreement would ultimately be for the good of the County as it ensures a sustained customer within our own arena system. Jody also relayed there were no concerns voiced at the public meeting that was called to discuss the Hill-Murray's proposal with stakeholders. Candy Petersen moved, seconded by Deb Falkowski, to move forward with the Hill-Murray proposal as attached. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Cretin-Derham Hall submitted a proposal to extend another long term ice rental agreement at Highland Arena. In exchange, Cretin would build locker rooms and a 2nd story community room at Highland Arena that would be available for community events when not in use by the school. The City of St. Paul has yet to weigh in on any necessary ADA requirements, and must also evaluate whether sewer capacity is adequate to support the addition. Deb Falkowski moved, seconded by Rich Straumann, to proceed with the Cretin Derham Hall proposal as attached.

KELLER GRAND REOPENING

Keller Grand Reopening is upon us! Media Day is tomorrow, Thursday 17th; Friday is Club Day and Saturday at 11:30 am is the formal ceremony for the Golf Course Grand Reopening. The Keller Regional Park Reopening ceremony is at 1:00 pm.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The County Board approved the formal Arena Proposals Evaluation Process as approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission with minor tweaking. They also authorized proceeding with non-binding arena project proposal evaluations of Hill-Murray for Aldrich Arena and Cretin-Derham Hall for Highland Arena. After successfully negotiating agreements we can return to the County Board for final review and approval.

The County Board agreed to a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding between Ramsey County and the Rice Creek Watershed District for the planning, design and construction of Middle Rice Creek Meander improvements within Rice Creek Corridor, which will clean up erosion issues.

The County Board determined that a Project Labor Agreement will be required for the Early Childhood Learning Center Project at Tamarack Nature Center within Bald Eagle Otter Lake Regional Park.

Upcoming Board Action Requests include:

- Authorizing Capital Projects Funds for the elevator installation at Aldrich Arena
- Recommending vacation of a portion of utility easement in the City of New Brighton at Long Lake Regional Park, which is no longer in use.
- Granting the Quit Claim Deed to transfer ownership of Lilydale parcels to the City of St. Paul so they can complete park improvements.

Jody Yungers has accepted a position as the Parks and Recreation Director at Brooklyn Park. She will be retiring early from Ramsey County effective 8/1/14 and start her new position on Monday, August 4, 2014.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Straumann shared a recently created Active Living Ramsey County brochure which features GORamsey, bike and walking trails and the bench system.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry