

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 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 Vadnais Sports Center in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota.

Members Present: Gale Pederson, Jack Ditmore, Deb Falkowski, Phil Jenni, Bryan Shirley, Rich Straumann,

Members Absent: Candy Petersen, Brian Tempas,

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi, Kara Coustry

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Straumann moved, seconded by Phil Jenni, that the minutes of July 16, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ELEVATOR AT ALDRICH ARENA

The County Board approved Capital Improvement funding to install an elevator at Aldrich Arena. This improvement meets ADA requirements for accessibility, and was prioritized as a result of Hill-Murray's proposal for additions at Aldrich Arena. With ADA accessibility, this improvement is expected to increase non-ice season contracts for dry floor events such as concerts and trade shows.

HILL-MURRAY ADDITION TO ALDRICH ARENA AND LONG TERM LEASE AGREEMENT

We recently finalized a 20 year lease agreement and work plan with Hill-Murray School for an addition and improvements at Aldrich Arena. The agreement is going to the County Board for approval on August 19. Hill-Murray will incur the cost and expense of improvements including one level below grade 2,200 square foot addition, two locker rooms, shower and bath facilities, a laundry area and equipment storage. The County will own the addition and improvements and Hill-Murray will use the space under their lease agreement. Construction is estimated to take approximately three months.

LILYDALE LAND TRANSFER

The County finalized a land exchange agreement with the City of St. Paul. The County authorized the execution of a quit claim deed approving the transfer of real property with Lilydale Regional Park to the City of St. Paul in exchange for City-owned property within Battle Creek Regional Park and the Pig's Eye Unit.

PULTE HOMES – EASEMENT VACATION

Pulte Homes is preparing a plat for immediate development in the vicinity of County State Aid Highway 77 and 14th Street NW, in the City of New Brighton. While reviewing the plat the County Surveyor found a utility easement benefiting Ramsey County Parks (specifically, the Long Lake Regional Park) was not shown on the plat. It was determined that part of the easement was no longer needed, served no public use and had no value to Ramsey County. Our attorneys are recommending that the County Board discharge and release the utility easement provided the owner release the County from all terms and conditions of the easement.

RATE AGREEMENT WITH BAUER-EMERSON

The County Board is being asked to approve a reduced rate with Bauer-Emerson School (Bauer) for non-prime time ice rental at the Vadnais Sports Center (VSC). The number of hours will make Bauer the third largest renter in the County system. The substantial utilization of daytime hours contributes to the viability of the VSC operation budget. The approved rate for non-prime ice at VSC is \$115 per hour in 2014 and 2015. The proposed reduced rate would be \$90 per hour. In addition to paying rent for a significant number of non-prime time ice hours, Bauer would provide to the County:

- Two spaces in the Summer Training Program (\$960 value)
- 10 spaces in the Learn-to-Skate Program (\$1250 value)
- 8 spaces in their summer camp (\$3992 value)
- One full scholarship to Bauer-Emerson Academy (\$13,000 value)

Jack Ditmore questioned the proposed rate reduction and wondered where Bauer would otherwise rent their ice. Jon mentioned this would be for a trial period in 2014-2015.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Jon mentioned providing an update to the County Manager on the Critical Success Factors which were established as part of the Parks and Recreation Budget. Parks Commission members expressed interest in getting the details of these Critical Success updates. Most notably, the County is undergoing a huge policy shift to focus on increasing economic prosperity and decreasing concentrated areas of poverty. We will be getting an intern after school starts who can assist with establishing and measuring community outreach and engagement models.

The Director of Operations job posting went up yesterday to fill Jody’s vacancy for golf and arenas. The position closes on Sept. 9th.

Jon provided an interview to Channel 11 to let public know there will be no more lifeguard services at our beaches and WaterWorks.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

There was discussion about holding more meetings at various Parks and Recreation facilities. There was also discussion about inviting other area Parks and Recreation Commissions for a joint session – perhaps on the topic of how Parks and Recreation can contribute to bridging the economic gap.

Brian Shirley mentioned he would like more fast pitch wiffleball opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry