

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 10, 2014

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:05 p.m., at Ramsey County's Keller Clubhouse in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Members Present: Gale Pederson, Jack Ditmore, Deb Falkowski, Rich Straumann, Candy Petersen, Bryan Shirley, Metric Giles

Members Absent: Phil Jenni, Brian Tempas

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi, Scott Yonke, Sara Ackmann and Kara Coustry

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

One correction was made to the November Minutes by clarifying that The Bike Master Plan was a **Bike and Pedestrian** Master Plan. Then Rich Straumann moved, seconded by Deb Falkowski, that the minutes of November 12, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

WORK PLANS

Noting that the Snail Lake Master Plan was last updated in 1996, Jack Ditmore suggested the Parks Commission develop a systematic review of Master Plans. Jack suggested carrying over items from the 2014 Work Plan into the 2015 Work Plan where still pending, such as the cross country ski wayfinding trail system and the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area.

Metric suggested we become more intentional with our outreach and form a subcommittee to discuss best practices for program outreach not only focusing on concentrated areas of poverty, but non-geographic poverty as well.

Jon to provide staff research and best practices on how to effectively engage our stakeholders as a starting point.

Gale suggested we start in February by reviewing background statistics such as who uses our parks and maps showing pockets of concentrated poverty. The first meeting should be about how to approach this and identify who should be on a focus group.

Gale instructed the group to get information Jon or Kara if more should be added to the Work Plan.

SNAIL LAKE MARSH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Scott Yonke brought this plan to the City of Shoreview Bike and Trail Committee November 5, 2014 and in 2012. Comments received included requests for a trailhead near the Shoreview Community Center and the removal of one of the trails to the far east of this plan. In the November meeting, the Bike and Trail Committee questioned the small Community Garden due to its location off of busy Hwy 96. This location was chosen because this site provides existing infrastructure including access off Hwy 96. As a result of these changes and the incorporation of land into the Regional Parks system, Scott needs to present a Master Plan Amendment to the Metropolitan Council. Scott was looking to hold a Public Meeting to review and comment on the revised plan prior to submitting it to the Metropolitan Council.

Deb Falkowski agreed the location of the Community Garden is busy and questioned who would coordinate the Community Garden. Scott proposes the City of Shoreview manage and run the garden if not Ramsey County Parks and Recreation. Rich Straumann mentioned there are potential users of a Community Garden with the Senior Housing complex located to the north. He also thought we should also look at other spaces for a Community Garden. Jack Ditmore wanted to see the Community Garden stay in the plan because it brings new users to the park, increases locally grown food, fits with the park system and contributes to the goal of reducing concentrated areas of poverty.

Metric Giles questioned whether food or flowers were to be grown there and it was confirmed as a food garden primarily. He wants to be sure that the soil is tested and meets standards. He agreed there were people in that geographic area that could benefit from this Community Garden and mentioned there were also opportunities at other sites. These projects “grow relationships more than just food”. Metric questioned what demographic was at the table of participants who reviewed the plan.

Gale Pederson agreed the location is busy, but felt the Community Garden should remain in the Master Plan revision to be presented during a public meeting to discuss this plan. Gale did not want us to limit our mailing notification by a pre-defined minimum geographic radius, but rather to broaden that notification to include other potential users of this development such as the housing to the east, senior housing to the north and other neighboring apartment and single family homes.

Action: Candy Petersen motioned, seconded by Bryan Shirley to support a recommendation to hold a public meeting to present this revised Master Plan for further comment.

REVISED TCAAP MASTER PLAN

Scott Yonke reported the latest development and infrastructure improvements to the TCAAP Master Plan. The development area is approximately 427 acres and will result in 17 additional acres to the Rice Creek Corridor. The Roadway infrastructure improvements run from the County Road H Bridge and the Parkway to County Road I. The western area is for corporate development with the rest being mixed use and housing, and will incorporate a park corridor in the middle of the site. Scott wanted to hold a separate Open House to discuss the revised Master TCAAP Plan prior to presenting the amended plan to the Metropolitan Council.

Rich Straumann thought this was a great addition that provides the Rice Creek connection in addition to the Spline Road Round-a-bout, and open space development green way. Rich wondered if there was a consultant used for the plan revision. Scott mentioned this was only a minor plan revision with a roadway and boundary adjustment that was done in-house. Rich wants to see the map overlay presented at the Open House.

Action: Rich Straumann motioned, seconded by Bryan Shirley to recommend the Open House for public comment on the revised Master Plan prior to submitting to the Metropolitan Council.

RICE CREEK NORTH TRAIL EXTENSION

Scott presented the current Rice Creek extension development plan including the connections to the neighborhood by Irondale High School and Towns Edge Terrace Mobile Home. Prior to final submittal to State Aid, Scott was considering another Open House public meeting to review and comment on the Extension Project. The trail design impacts the current cross country ski corridor at two locations.

Rich Straumann was supportive and commented that this north trail extension completes the link of Rice Creek Regional Trail. Action: Rich Straumann moved, Candy Petersen seconded the recommendation to hold a public Open House meeting for comments about the plan.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Manitou Ridge Golf Course Maintenance Facility still progressing with completion expected in February. Tamarack Nature Center’s Early Learning Center addition is progressing with completion expected in spring. Aldrich Arena locker room expansion is nearing completion and Hill Murray hopes to move in for Saturday’s game. The elevators at both Aldrich and Highland Arenas will start this winter.

The written agreement for Cretin-Derham Hall at Highland Arena is slowly progressing. We need to fix the sewer line.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Rich Straumann reports the contract for the Ramsey County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan work will begin soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry