

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 14, 2015

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:03 p.m., at Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Phil Jenni, Bryan Shirley

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi and Kara Coustry

Others Present: Shirley Erstad, Executive Director of Friends of the Parks

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

Candy Petersen moved, seconded by Rich Straumann that the minutes of December 10, 2014 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Candy Petersen moved, seconded by Jack Ditmore that Gale Pederson serve as Chair for 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Gale nominated Jack Ditmore to serve as Vice Chair for 2015, but Jack declined. Gale Pederson moved, seconded by Jack Ditmore that Rich Straumann serve as Vice Chair for 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION BYLAWS FOR 2015

Gale Pederson asked the commission to review the bylaws. Candy Peterson approved, Rich Straumann seconded that the Commission approve its 2014 bylaws, with a footnote that an attendance report be provided at the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ARENA TASK FORCE

In February, Jon will be asking the County Board to appoint a task force of members from their districts to serve on an Arena Task Force. The purpose of an Arena Task Force will be to assess the market and make recommendations to the County Board whether we should keep, sell or repurpose any of our arenas. Hockey participation is down and figure skating is stable, but stagnant. In addition, our arena buildings are old and the phase out of R-22 means expensive renovations are needed to establish alternate coolant systems.

Candy Petersen expressed interest and Gale Pederson offered to back-up Candy as an alternate member. This task force is expected to wrap up after 1 year, at which time Jon will be looking to establish a Golf Course Task Force.

JOINT MEETINGS

Jon passed out a proposed agenda for the joint meeting with the City of Maplewood Parks and Recreation Commission. After introductions, the discussions will focus around County and City Partnerships related to Fish Creek, Tuj Lub at Keller Regional Park and Disc Golf at Battle Creek Regional Park. Go Ape was another suggestion. We will hear about the Maplewood Parks System Plan and will provide an update on Ramsey County's System including 2015 improvement projects. The meeting will take place at 6:00 pm on February 11th at the Maplewood Community Center.

Meeting locations were discussed for the March joint meeting with the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission. Two potential meeting locations were the Battle Creek Recreation Center and Keller Club House. Gale Pederson wants to learn about Saint Paul Parks and Recreation in general, what they do and what programming they offer. When we know what Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is doing, we can see best how to work cooperatively and not competitively to support the goal of eliminating poverty.

FINALIZE THE 2015 WORK PLAN

Rich Straumann suggested numbering each item for ease in identifying it in the line-up. We moved the Arena Task Force from August to February. Jack Ditmore mentioned we should keep in mind that 2016 will be a bonding year. Perhaps July or August we will combine the park tour with Saint Paul and Friends of the Parks (was this both entities, or were they just referring to Friends of the Parks?) It would be best to take time on a Saturday, perhaps 10 am – 2 pm for a tour during daylight, rather than an evening after work when day light is limited.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail Open House will be held at the New Brighton Community Center on Monday, January 26th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The Lake Owasso/Snail Lake Marsh Open House will be held at Shoreview City Hall on January 28th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Construction updates: Aldrich locker rooms are done. Manitou Ridge cold storage will be done in March. The walls and roof of the Early Learning Center are constructed.

We are removing some diseased trees along Snail Lake.

The City of Maplewood is proceeding with deer sharp-shooting although the City of Saint Paul is not.

Hockey Day MN is this weekend on the tarmac at the Saint Paul Airport. Ramsey County has donated a Zamboni and hockey goals for the event.

Parks long time Accountant, Linda Koesling passed away unexpectedly.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Candy Petersen thanked Jon for dinner. Rich Straumann announced that Active Living Ramsey Communities just celebrated their ten-year anniversary. Active Living Ramsey Communities also received an intern, which was extended through Public Health.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon appropriate motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry