

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Parks and Recreation Department

The meeting of the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Gale Pederson at 6:02 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Building in Maplewood, Minnesota.

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

Members Absent: Jack Ditmore, Phil Jenni and Brian Tempas

Staff Present: Jon Oyanagi and Kara Coustry

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bryan Shirley moved, seconded by Deb Falkowski 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 March 11, 2015 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

REGIONAL PARK USE AMONG SELECT COMMUNITIES OF COLOR - RAINTRY SALK, METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Raintry Salk provided detailed insight on her report, "[Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color](#)".

WINTER RECREATION SUMMIT UPDATE

Jon reported there were approximately 60 attendees at the first winter recreation area summit. The cost of this project is \$4 million: \$2 million is to be in bonding, \$1 million by the county and \$1 million in community funding. Since the Governor didn't include this project in his bonding this year, the focus is for a new legislative bond next year. The next winter recreation summit is tomorrow night in which steering committees will be formed for each of four themes: Champions & Stakeholders, Funding, Lobbying and Operations.

ARENA TASK FORCE UPDATE

The County Board established the Arena Task Force by Commission Order on April 7th and the first Arena Task Force meeting will occur on April 23rd. Candy Petersen is the representative from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

There was not enough snow cover to complete an aerial deer survey this winter (2014/15). A total of 983 deer were counted last year in 2014, which was an increase of 204 deer from the 2013 survey and only 88 were harvested during the 2014 season. The hunts are expected to remove 85-137 deer. Candy Petersen moved, seconded by Bryan Shirley to recommend the adoption of the 2015 Deer Management Plan to include controlled archery hunts in the fall of 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTENDANCE TRACKING

Parks and Recreation Commission members reviewed meeting attendance for 2014 and 2015. Please refer to the Bylaws:

“Any member of the Commission who misses three consecutive meetings or half of announced Commission meetings, within a period of 12 months, may be recommended by the Chairman of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for removal from the Commission”

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Maintenance and Operations appropriation amounting to an additional \$150,000 per year, is still under consideration, and a bonding request of \$5 million for Regional Parks is still in play. Senator Hawj is asking for Tuj Lub funding under Cultural Arts Legacy Funding, which still needs to be heard in the Senate. Alice Hausman is working on eliminating language about excess interest going to Minneapolis when it should be divided among the ten implementing agencies.

The National Park Service is visiting tomorrow for the TCAAP land transfer. If funding is available, the land will be cleaned this year and a trail built. An access agreement with Rice Creek Watershed District for the re-meandering of Rice Creek to curve around County Road H was approved by the County Board.

We filled the Park Maintenance and Operations Supervisor position with Rob Adams, former Ponds Golf Course Superintendent. Also, Trudi Winek who was serving as our interim accountant from the Sheriff’s Department, is our official accountant now.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS

Rich Straumann reports that Active Living continues to conduct listening sessions for the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kara Coustry