

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2023, 6:00 PM
2015 Van Dyke St N, Maplewood MN 55109

Commission Members In-attendance: Chair - Gregory Williams (Chair), Mary Grams Basnight, Jordan Nelson, Brian Tempas (Vice-Chair), Snowdon Herr, Mike Sachi, Reier Erickson

Staff: Mark McCabe, Ann White Eagle, Mike Goodnature, Alexis Lipstein, Angela Marlette

Guests: Pete Boulay-MN State Climatology, Ramsey County Commissioner Xiong, and 10 Rain Guagers!.

The meeting to was called to order at 6:13 pm by Chair Gregory Williams. **A motion was made to accept the September 13, 2023, meeting minutes meeting minutes and approve the November 8, 2023, meeting agenda meeting agenda by Jordan Nelson and seconded by Mary Grams Basnight. Motion carried.**

Welcome to new Commission Member Reier Erickson. Reier took a moment to introduce himself as did each member and Staff present.

Topic: Pete Boulay from the State Climatology Weather: Past, Present and Future.

- In Summary:
 - The 2010's were an extraordinary wet period.
 - Dryness began in 2020, picked up speed in 2021 and eased in late 2021. A new drought arrived in 2022, but in 2023 the drought returned again.
 - After three winters of La Niña, a fairly strong El Niño is expected for the winter of 23-24.
 - The future trend is for a warmer and wetter climate, but expect variability.
- A PDF version of this presentation will accompany these minutes.

Commission Chair Update: Greg Williams

- Greg asked how many people in the room know how to ride a bike and since it looks like all present do know how, Fat tire biking is a perfect winter activity for Ramsey County Parks & Recreation.
 - Greg reviewed the particulars of last February's Fat Bike Advocacy Days at Keller and Battle Creek Regional Park.
 - In partnership with staff (Mike Goodnature and Benjamin Karp) a new Fat Bike Trail is being proposed for Keller Regional Park. Greg shared a tentative project timeline, trail maps, wayfinding, sustainability and partnerships with local business and non-profits.
 - Mike commented that as long as people stay off the trails when it is wet or soft there is minimal to no impact to the area.
 - There is nothing like this in the East Metro area since MORC (Minnesota Off Road Cycling) is really concentrated to the West metro.
- On another note, the boat tour to Pig's Eye Island Building was off the hook and look forward to visiting the site again.
- Enjoyed working with everyone this year and look forward to 2024.

Director Update:

- Parks Summer rental season is done, golf courses shut down and moving into Ice and Cross-country ski season. The Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area is also getting ready to open. Since it's a bonding year the

2024 Legislative session will begin in February and Parks is putting forward requests with other metropolitan implementing agencies for infrastructure improvements. Mark wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Brian Tempas motioned for adjournment at 7:48 pm

Next Meeting: January 10, 2024