



## **PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA**

**Monday, October 7, 2013**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Public Works**

**Conference Room**

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### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Adopt Agenda**

Approval of September 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

### **Old Business**

1. Sunrise Pond Park Update

### **New Business**

### **Other Business**

2. Eagle Scout Park Projects
3. Teen Center Update
4. Warming House Operations
5. Parks & Trails Bond Referendum

### **Adjourn**



**Park & Rec - Regular**

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013

**Subject:** Approval of September 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

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**Attachments**

9-9-13minutes

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COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

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The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on September 9, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson, Commissioners John Angell, Mary Lou Hecht, Mike Jacobson, Gen Sand (arrived at 6:36 p.m.), and Neal Livermore

Members Absent: Commissioner Ryan McAlpine

Also Present: Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor, and Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator, and Councilmember Bruce Sanders

1. ROLL CALL

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Gregg Engle acknowledged roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AGENDA

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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2013 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. OLD BUSINESS

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5. NEW BUSINESS

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A. Farmers Market 2014

Mr. Gunderson reviewed staff met on July 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss starting a Farmer's Market at the Coon Rapids Ice Center on Coon Rapids Blvd in 2014. Staff liaisons for the Sustainability Commission, Arts Commission, and Park & Recreation commissions were part of the discussion. Council has expressed interest in a Farmer's Market at this site in the past. At their most recent Commission meeting the Arts and Sustainability Commission gave their support to starting a market in 2014. He has contacted the St. Paul Farmer's Market who does satellite farmer's markets. Mr. Gunderson stated they

are very organized and they hold to the locally grown and organic produce. They are very interested in participating in a Coon Rapids Farmer's Market.

Commissioner Livermore stated Mary T's has theirs. Mr. Gunderson stated they are looking at Thursday nights for the Coon Rapids Farmer's Market.

Gen Sand arrived at 6:36 p.m.

Commissioner Livermore asked if local sellers can set up. Mr. Gunderson stated individuals most likely would need to become a member of the St. Paul Farmer's Market.

Chair Arntson asked what the other Commissions thought of the proposed location. Mr. Gunderson stated they were in favor of it.

#### B. Port River Walk Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Gunderson reviewed, in 2010 the City received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct assessment activities on various brownfield redevelopment sites throughout the City. The City has been able to use a portion of the grant funds to complete master plans and market studies for two larger redevelopment areas along Coon Rapids Boulevard – Port Campus Square and Port Riverwalk. Both of these areas contain large tracts of City-owned land, which the City intends to sell for development as market conditions improve. A draft master plan for Port Riverwalk has been completed and was considered at a public open house in July. An advisory committee, which includes two nearby property owners, a neighborhood resident, two Planning Commissioners, and a member of the Sustainability Commission, has reviewed the comments from the open house and continues to discuss the plan's details and implementation steps. The full Planning Commission and City Council will formally consider the master plan this fall. City Staff will then begin implementing the plan's recommendations and preparing the land for development.

Mr. Gunderson stated because the draft master plan includes several recommendations related to parks and trails, City Staff requests input from the Parks Commission. While most of the plan's recommendations relate to private land development, providing infrastructure, and recreation amenities is an important part of facilitating private investment. Most of the recommendations pertain to enhancing the trail connection between Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park and the Coon Creek Trail north of Coon Rapids Boulevard. Providing this connection will create an amenity for residents of the surrounding area, improve the marketability of the City-owned land, and fill a gap in the regional trail network. Specific park-related recommendations include:

1. Developing an on-street bikeway or trail connection along Egret Boulevard between Coon Rapids Dam and Coon Rapids Boulevard.
2. Improving the Clay Hole to function as more of an amenity for area residents.

3. Constructing a Parkway or Green Corridor parallel to Coon Rapids Boulevard between Egret Boulevard and Avocet Street. This street would include pedestrian and bicycle facilities and would replace the existing frontage road on the south side of Coon Rapids Boulevard.
4. Making improvements to enhance the pedestrian/bicycle environment at the intersection of Avocet Street and Coon Rapids Boulevard.

City Staff requests feedback from the Parks Commission on the Port Riverwalk master plan. Staff will continue to refine these recommendations and explore potential costs and funding sources.

Mr. Gunderson distributed a copy of a map showing the area to the Commission.

Commissioner Livermore stated the Council is looking at purchasing the carwash. He asked if the old City Hall building and Lilliput would ever be considered to be purchased by the City for redevelopment. Mr. Engle stated some Councilmembers have mentioned that in the past. This park would be the entrance to Coon Rapids. Mr. Gunderson stated with the amount of development a park would be a nice addition. He stated a public/private partnership with a theme like Lilliput would be a nice addition to a park.

Chair Arntson stated some years ago the owner of Lilliput wanted to put in a water slide and use some of the park land. Chair Arntson stated he would like to see the park redeveloped. Chair Arntson asked for clarification as to where the trails would connect. Mr. Gunderson indicated on the map where the trails would connect. Chair Arntson asked who the developer is for the area and Councilmember Sanders stated it would be Shamrock.

Commissioner Livermore stated he would rather pull the trail off the Boulevard. It would be better to run along the tree line going east-west. Commissioner Livermore stated at the Council meeting tomorrow evening there is a line item referring to the referendum. He is against any referendum money being spent on Al Flynn Park and the Clay Hole.

Chair Arntson stated there would be park dedication fees from the development. Commissioner Livermore stated he does not want the developer to dictate to the City what would be done.

Commissioner Jacobson asked how the components are determined. Commissioner Livermore stated there has been some discussion about grocery. Chair Arntson stated he would like to see some more mixed use in the area. Mr. Gunderson stated more of the density is planned for the Port Campus area.

Commissioner Sand asked what timeframe is being looked at and Mr. Gunderson stated it is just a preliminary plan at this time.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS

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Parks 2014 Budget – Mr. Engle stated the Council is still trying to make some cuts (\$300,000). Four seasonal positions have been approved as well as a trailer.

Dog Park Update – The Coon Rapids Dog Park will be officially closed September 15, 2013. Only one phone call was received stating concerns with the new county dog park. Mr. Engle stated there will be a meeting held Friday to address some of the issues for the maintenance of the new dog park. Mr. Gunderson stated some people appeared at the Council meeting to express their concerns. The ski trail will go around the dog park to the west.

Sunrise Pond Park Update – Mr. Engel stated approval has been given to do a little more there and put the basketball hoop in. An Eagle Scout will install 3 benches. A grant has been received for tree planting. A shelter, landscaping, retaining wall have all been discussed as possible improvements. Irrigation stubs have been installed. The park is all sand and has started eroding. Mr. Engle indicated on a map the area that is currently being mowed.

Recreation Programming Update – Mr. Gunderson provided an update to the Council on the recreation programs. He distributed an update for the Commission showing input received on possible future programs. Some of the program ideas will be discussed with Council at their Sept 24, 2013 meeting.

Referendum – The City is doing what they can. The brochure has been published. A resident commented more should be included regarding safety, ADA requirements, and accessibility requirements. There is no opposition groups formed to the knowledge of the Commission members. The athletic groups are considering having a Town Hall Meeting to provide information to residents about the referendum. The suggestion of lawn signs to be placed in the parks regarding the referendum. Councilmember Sanders stated the entire Council is on board. Commissioner Livermore referred the Commission to the video on the City's website.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE\_, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAND, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator



**Park & Rec - Regular**

**1.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013

**Subject:** Sunrise Pond Park Update

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

Parks Superintendent, Gregg Engle will give an update on the status of Sunrise Pond Park completion.

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

**2.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013

**Subject:** Eagle Scout Park Projects

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

Parks Superintendent, Gregg Engle will review current and recently completed Eagle Scout projects throughout the park system.

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

**3.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013

**Subject:** Teen Center Update

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

City Council approved at the October 1st regular meeting to reallocate general funds to the Element Teen Center to cover the costs for the remainder of 2013. The Center will operate under the previous arrangement with Community Education administering the program and billing the City for the costs for the remainder of 2013. Community Education and the City are working on a plan for 2014, which should be finalized by the final approval of the 2014 budget in December. The Teen Center is open 4-7PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 6-9pm on Fridays now through the start of Winter Break.

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

4.

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013  
**Subject:** Warming House Operations  
**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

This Winter the City will again take over operations of the four warming houses in the City. For the past two seasons the City has worked in collaboration with the Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association to provide the warming house program. The Association has chosen to end that agreement going forward. The City will be posting the temporary seasonal position in the next couple weeks with the intent to hire 6-8 attendants for the season. Rinks and warming houses are open to the public December 20th-February 18th, weather permitting. General Rink Hours Monday-Friday 5:00pm-8:30pm Saturday 1:00pm-8:30pm Sunday 1:00pm-8:30pm Holiday Rink Hours Monday-Friday (Dec.23-Jan.3) 1:00pm-8:30pm Christmas Eve Closed Christmas Day Closed New Year's Eve Closed New Year's Day Closed School Holiday Hours Monday, January 20 1:00pm-8:30pm Monday, February 17 1:00pm-8:30pm Tuesday, February 18 1:00pm-8:30pm

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**Park & Rec - Regular**

**5.**

**Meeting Date:** 10/07/2013

**Subject:** Parks & Trails Bond Referendum

**From:** Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

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**INFORMATION:**

The City will be sending out a final mailing in the next week as a reminder of the Parks & Trails bond referendum on the General Election ballot, November 5th. The mailing will include information including the question verbiage and where to vote.

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