

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Committee Members Present:

William Weber, Anthony Taylor, Todd Kemery, Rick Theisen, Robert Moeller, Dean Johnston, Michael Kopp, Rachel Gillespie Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

Committee Members Absent: Sarah Hietpas,.

Swearing In:

Arriving late, new member Todd Kemery was sworn in.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnston called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Johnston asked for motion to approve the agenda of the June 2, 2015 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Weber motioned and it was seconded by Gillespie.

Agenda was approved.

Chair Johnston asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Taylor motioned and it was seconded by Gillespie.

Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC INVITATION

Invitation to interested person(s) to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.

None.

BUSINESS

Reimbursement Consideration for Parking Lot Project at Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park, St. Paul – Jan Youngquist, Manager

Youngquist presented on the request from St. Paul regarding reimbursement consideration for a parking lot project at Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park as outlined in the staff report provided.

It was motioned by Gillespie seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Saint Paul up to \$196,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program for costs incurred above and beyond those paid through grant SG-2008-058 for construction of a parking lot at Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park.
2. Inform Saint Paul that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Land Exchange and Boundary Amendment for Rice Creek North Regional Trail, Ramsey County
– Jan Youngquist, Manager

Youngquist gave a presentation on the request from Ramsey County for a land exchange and boundary amendment for Rice Creek North Regional Trail as outlined in the staff report provided.

Weber clarified asking if the trail runs along the creek or does Ramsey County get a bridge. Youngquist described County Road H and noted that the trail will be a part of the overpass.

It was motioned by Weber seconded by Theisen to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the conversion of 2.48 acres of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor needed for transportation purposes in exchange for 2.48 acres adjacent to the trail corridor, as described in Attachments 1 and 2, and depicted in Attachment 3.
2. Approve a master plan boundary amendment to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor that removes the 2.48 acres needed for transportation purposes and adds the adjacent 2.48 acres as depicted in Attachment 3.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Spring Lake Park Reserve, 13586 Fischer Avenue, Dakota County - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre presented a park acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant request for Spring Lake Park Reserves outlined in the staff report provided. She discussed special circumstances (lack of available acquisition opportunity funds) described in the materials provided and noted that this is the first time these special circumstances are being used.

Weber asked why they didn't wait 30 days when funds are renewed. Dupre stated it was because of a closing date.

Moeller asked where this was in proximity to land the Commission toured previously. Al Singer, Dakota County Parks showed the Reese property in conjunction to this property and noted they're approximately a few miles apart.

Youngquist pointed out that this grant would be funded through the Parks and Trails Legacy Funds and noted that this Bill was not passed but will be a part of the Special Session.

Taylor asked about reimbursement consideration of 25% (which is the agency's match). Dupre stated it comes out of their future CIP.

Wulff noted CIP allotments will be discussed on our next agenda item.

It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Taylor to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a grant of up to \$950,557 to reimburse Dakota County for acquisition of a 9.37-acre property for Spring Lake Park Reserve when funds are available in the Parks and Trails Legacy fund account of the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund.
 - a. The Metropolitan Council will finance the grant through the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) Parks and Trails Legacy fund account, providing up to 75 percent (\$950,557) of the total acquisition costs.
 - b. Dakota County will provide up to 25 percent (\$316,852) of the total acquisition costs.
2. Consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$316,852, its 25% share of the total acquisition costs, from a future Regional Park Capital Improvement Program. The Council does not under

any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

3. Authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreement including the restrictive covenant.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Set Public Hearing Date for 2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

Stefferud gave a presentation on the public hearing draft provided for the 2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Wulff asked how people comment on portions that aren't available until the public hearing. Stefferud stated staff will disseminate information as soon as it becomes available.

Moeller questioned why some agencies have not provided all the information and asked if there is anything to be read into that. Stefferud stated that generic amounts, based on approved master plans were submitted but we're asking for more specifics. He also explained that this data was requested in early May so their Park Boards did not have much opportunity to meet and provide more detail.

Moeller asked if we know and they know this is coming isn't there any way we can get specifics sooner. Stefferud discussed the process and noted in the past we have started working on this sooner.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County discussed their process and what was brought forward.

Holly Jenkins, citizen, stated that if specifics are coming in late she feels hearing dates need to be extended. She feels the public is being asked to review information that is not yet available.

SUSPENDED AGENDA

Chair Johnston suspended the agenda at this time to swear in new member Todd Kemery who arrived late.

Continued Agenda Item #4.

Wulff asked about the dates and suggested extending the hearing record or moving the hearing back two weeks to give more opportunity for review and comment.

Youngquist stated that in order to do that, we would need to call a Special Meeting of the MPOSC or postpone the MPOSC meeting.

Wulff asked the commission how they felt about doing something like this.

Moeller asked if we've had a fair amount of public comment in the past. Stefferud responded that in his experience there has been a relatively small amount of input because what is being proposed has gone through a public hearing process in front of their relative Park Boards already.

It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Weber to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Release the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program*;
2. Authorize a public hearing to be conducted regarding the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* at 4:00 p.m. on August 17, 2015 as part of the Community Development Committee meeting;
3. Keep the public record open until 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2015;
4. Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* for public comment under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings; and

5. Direct staff to submit the 2016-2017 portion of the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* as part of the Metropolitan Council's Preliminary 2016 State Bond Request to Minnesota Management and Budget.

Chair Johnston asked if there was any motion to amend. Stefferud suggested, in line with the discussion, an amendment requiring the park agencies (specifically Three Rivers Park District, Minneapolis Park Board, and Dakota County) to submit details on all or a portion of their 2016-17 CIP request no later than August 17, 2015 to the Council. And, prior to bringing this to the Community Development Committee staff would come up with a schedule for extending the hearing record to allow more time for people review the details and still meet the MMB's final timeline.

Chair Johnston reviewed that he is hearing an amendment with three basic changes. 1. That we request the information from the implementing agencies arrive no later than August 17, 2015. 2. Community Development Committee (CDC) would extend the time to receive that information. 3. MPOSC would adjust their September meeting date in order to consider the information provided.

Wulff suggested a minor change that we will 'evaluate' extending the comment period to make sure that it's possible, rather than say that we will.

Youngquist provided some dates. She noted that the Council will meet (to take final action) on 9/23/15. Their next Council Meeting is 10/14/15. She feels given that we need to submit to the MMB in early October we will need to keep the Council Meeting on 9/23/15, so that doesn't give us a whole lot of 'wiggle room'.

Wulff stated that even if we just say the specific details need to be submitted by 8/17/15 – this will help the process.

Youngquist noted that when staff presents to the CDC on 8/17/15, they will give background and add specifics at that time. She noted the public record will be open for ten days after that so there would still be time for people to evaluate what is submitted.

Stefferdud proposed the following amendment. Add a #6. Require Dakota County, Minneapolis Park Board, and Three Rivers Park District to submit the details for their 2016-17 CIP request to the Council no later than 8/17/15. Also add #7. Direct Council staff to evaluate extending the hearing record time to provide more opportunity for review of all of the details of the CIP.

Moeller amended his motion to include items 6 & 7 as presented by Stefferud. It was seconded by Weber.

Youngquist noted that #7 conflicts with item #3 of the proposed action and suggested modifying #3 and deleting #7.

Moeller modified his amendment, it was seconded by Weber to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Release the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program*;
2. Authorize a public hearing to be conducted regarding the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* at 4:00 p.m. on August 17, 2015 as part of the Community Development Committee meeting;
3. Keep the public record open until 5:00 p.m. on August 27, 2015 and direct Council staff to evaluate extending the hearing record time to provide more opportunity for review of all of the details of the CIP;
4. Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* for public comment under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings; and

5. Direct staff to submit the 2016-2017 portion of the draft *2016-2021 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program* as part of the Metropolitan Council's Preliminary 2016 State Bond Request to Minnesota Management and Budget.
6. Require Dakota County, Minneapolis Park Board, and Three Rivers Park District to submit the details for their 2016-17 CIP request to the Council no later than 8/17/15.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **Amended motion carried unanimously.**

Youngquist noted that this is Stefferud's last meeting and the end of an era. She personally thanked him for all of his hard work.

Stefferud thanked the Commission and past commissioners and staff and discussed the history of the Council and its future.

INFORMATION

None.

REPORTS

Chair: Johnson discussed an article in the Star Tribune that showed the rankings done by Trust for Public Land and noted that Minneapolis/St. Paul was tied for first place for best parks in the United States.

Commissioners: Weber asked how Stefferud's replacement will be trained. Stefferud noted that he is putting together standard operating procedures for his successors.

Staff: Stefferud gave a Legislative update and talked about a special session. He noted that he feels positive that this will happen.

Youngquist discussed upcoming tours. 8/4/15 will be Carver County – Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. More details to follow. She stated that the September tour is yet to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary