2020 Budget Discussion

Regional Parks Interest Earnings
From 1985 through December 31, 2017, all interest earned on Regional Parks System appropriations to the Metropolitan Council was legislatively earmarked to support North Mississippi Regional Park.
Per legislation passed in 2015, as of January 1, 2018, the Council “shall use the interest earnings … for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.”
Interest earnings parameters

• Can fund operating or capital initiatives
• Earned annually, but vary each year
  – About $700,000* in 2018 interest earnings available
• Funds can be included in the annual budget or authorized in a budget amendment
• No statutory authority to distribute Regional Parks System funds outside of the regional parks implementing agencies

* This is an estimate that is not yet audited or final.
Preliminary timeline

Idea generation

- February 2019: Regional Park Implementing Agencies
- April 2019: MPOSC
- June 2019: Community Development Committee
- June 2019: Equity Advisory Committee

Summer 2019: Discussion of options and direction
- MPOSC
- Community Development Committee

Second half of 2019: Decision
- Full Council
Ideas we’ve heard so far

Direct distribution to implementing agencies:
- Equal distribution to all 10 agencies
- Formula distribution to all 10 agencies
- Reimbursements of local match

Competitive grants to implementing agencies:
- Equity Grant Program (non-capital funds)
- Supplement Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund

Centralized regional initiatives:
- Visitor Research
- Coordinated marketing campaign
- Other equity initiatives
Discussion and direction

What are your priorities for the use of these funds for 2019?
for further information

libby starling
deputy director, community development division
libby.starling@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1135

emmett mullin
regional parks manager
emmett.mullin@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1360