

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Monday, April 7, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Dean Johnston, Rick Theisen, William Weber, Sarah Hietpas, Carrie Wasley, Barbara Schmidt, Robert Moeller, Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

Committee Members Absent:

Tony Yarusso, Anthony Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Johnston called the special meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Hietpas to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Hietpas to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried.** Moeller abstained due to his absence from the March 11, 2014 meeting.

PUBLIC INVITATION

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

None.

BUSINESS

County Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan Amendment, Anoka County - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave a presentation discussing the amendment to the Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan as outlined in the staff report provided.

Schmidt asked if the island was a veterans' camp. Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks responded that it was created as a veterans' memorial.

Weber stated that he liked the acquisition of riverfront land and also that Fridley and Anoka County are working well under the Joint Powers Agreement.

Youngquist noted that Anoka County manages the whole park, however portions of the park are owned by Fridley.

Theisen made a motion and it was seconded by Weber to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan Amendment.
2. Require that prior to initiating development at Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park, preliminary development plans should be sent to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager (651-602-4503) at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.
3. Require that once executed, Anoka County should submit to the Metropolitan Council a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement or any subsequent amendments between the County and the City of Fridley that

incorporates City-owned land into the regional park boundary and allows the County to operate and maintain the property as regional parkland.

Johnston called for a vote. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Intercity Regional Trail (6 Easements), Three Rivers Park District - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre gave a presentation regarding the request by Three Rivers Park District for an opportunity fund grant for the acquisition of six permanent public trailway easements for the Intercity Regional Trail in the City of Bloomington as outlined in the staff report provided.

Wulff commented on the chart that shows the acquisition costs for each property and noted that each one has an associated fee of \$4,600 and asked what they are for. Dupre responded that those fees are for taxes, closing costs, and appraisals. Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers Park District stated that a large portion of the fee is for the appraisal. He noted that in context the total regional trail project is over \$8 million.

Weber thanked staff for the negotiations on each parcel.

Moeller made a motion and it was seconded by Weber to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a grant of up to \$71,276 from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Acquisition Account to Three Rivers Park District to finance up to 75% of the costs to acquire six permanent public trailway easements for the Intercity Regional Trail described in Attachment 2. The grant will be financed as follows:

- \$42,766 from the FY2014 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation, and
- \$28,510 from Metropolitan Council bonds

Three Rivers Park District will match the grant with up to \$23,757, its 25% share of the total acquisition cost.

2. Authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreement and accompanying documents including the restrictive covenant.

Johnston called for a vote. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Amend Scope of Park Grants SG-2012-053 and SG-2013-089, Anoka County – Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre gave a presentation regarding a request from Anoka County to amend the scope of two existing grants as outlined in the staff report provided.

Wasley clarified that this Commission does not approve program grants. Dupre confirmed that is correct. Wasley asked who does. Dupre stated the Legislature does and referenced the 2013 session law that listed projects funded with Legacy appropriations.

Weber asked what leeway, if any, does MPOSC/Met Council have with Legacy funds. The Legislature allows the park agencies to keep the appropriation they have.

Steffered explained that there is law that directs the Council to distribute the Legacy appropriation among the ten implementing agencies under a formula.

Weber commented that his understanding of the Legacy program was that it was to fund things that may not have gotten done otherwise. Stefferud stated that the agencies use these dollars to supplement traditional sources of funding.

Schmidt asked why the position was terminated early. Dupre responded that the position was only intended to go until December 1, 2013, so the County overestimated the cost for this employee.

Weber made a motion and it was seconded by Hietpas to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG-2012-053 changing the scope (project description) to add “complete improvements to Rice Creek West Regional Trail/Manomin Park parking lot, entrance drive and sidewalks.”
2. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG-2013-089 changing the scope (project description)) to replace the existing with “complete roof improvements at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve”.

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

INFORMATION

Discussion Regarding MPOSC Social/Team-Building Meeting

Stefferd gave some history of social gatherings of the Commission including summer picnics with staff. He noted that these would not be business meetings and business could not be conducted. It would only be a social gathering. There have also been holiday celebrations in December when the Commission has gone out to dinner. He noted that the Council would not reimburse the expenses but it would be incurred by each individual.

Johnston asked if these events have taken place after the open meeting law was put into place. Stefferud responded that he was not sure if they had. Weber noted that this law was established in 1973, so they have.

Johnston asked if there is interest in creating a social gathering.

Weber stated that he arrived in January and the meeting started and there were no introductions. He stated that there was no background on the issues, protocol, anything so at a minimum he would like an opportunity to get to know other members of the Commission. He thought it would also be nice to know what had transpired with the Commission in the past.

Johnston noted that we could not conduct/discuss business.

Schmidt stated that at a minimum introductions and background on each other would be helpful. She stated that we could do this at our next meeting. She also felt there would be value to adding more information to an agenda item on past history that would make it easier to be understood by all.

Theisen felt that a social gathering would be fine. To address the other piece he stated it would be helpful to have history for those members who haven't been on when presentations were made. He added that even those who were on, a refresher (history) would be helpful.

Moeller feels it is nice to know more about people you are working with and feels it helps with flow and support as we work on the efforts of the organization. He stated that during the summer park visits is when he gets a chance to get to know others. He also felt there's an opportunity there for some casual socialization either before or after a visit to a park. He suggested that we look at adding some time to some of the summer park tours to leave some time for socialization.

Johnston closed the discussion as the meeting needed to end at 4:20pm.

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Next meeting will be on April 22, 2014 and will be a Special Meeting and will be dealing with parks policy plan issues plus a White Paper, “What, if any, limits should Park Acquisition

Opportunity Fund grant rules place on funding costs associated with condemnation proceedings?”

Related to: (2013-314) Public Hearing Report Regarding Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Rule Changes as Amendment to 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan 2013-314.”

ADJOURNMENT

4:20 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary