

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: June 2, 2015

For the Community Development Committee meeting of June 15, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2015

Subject: Reimbursement Consideration for Parking Lot Project, Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park, Saint Paul

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District G, Rachel Gillespie

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute Section 473.315 and 2040 *Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Strategy 6*

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP, Manager (651-602-1029)

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

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.

Background

Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park is located along the south side of the Mississippi River and stretches from Lilydale to downtown Saint Paul. Although the Lilydale portion of the regional park lies in Dakota County, it is owned and operated by the City of Saint Paul. Harriet Island is located just south of downtown Saint Paul.

As part of the 2008 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Metropolitan Council issued a grant (SG-2008-058) to the City of Saint Paul for \$364,000 to design and construct a parking facility at the Harriet Island portion of Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park. Due to project delays, the grant agreement has been amended three times to extend its term, which currently expires on December 31, 2015.

The project has been designed, engineered, and has received the necessary approvals from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Saint Paul Public Works Department. When advertised for construction, bids came in much higher than anticipated. The City of Saint Paul estimates the shortfall to be approximately \$196,000. Saint Paul has requested that the Council consider reimbursing the City up to \$196,000 for these costs from its share of a future Regional Parks CIP.

Rationale

The request is within the Council's granting authority outlined in Minnesota Statute 473.315 and is consistent with Finance Strategy 6 of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, which states:

Finance Strategy 6: The Council may reimburse regional park implementing agencies for the costs of acquiring some lands before they have been made part of the Regional Parks System or for development projects undertaken before they can be financed through the Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Reimbursement will be considered for development provided that:

- *the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type, and cost with an approved master plan*
- *all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and*
- *the Council approves the project.*

This request is consistent with the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

The timing, scale and cost for the construction of the Harriet Island parking lot at Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park are consistent with the Council-approved master plan. Sufficient information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Finance Strategy 6 as described in **Attachment 1**. Additionally, Saint Paul is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for City expenditures prior to undertaking construction of the parking lot project.

Funding

Approval of the reimbursement consideration request does not commit the Council to any funding at this time. The requested reimbursement consideration may be financed from Saint Paul's share of a future Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program. However, 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.

Known Support / Opposition

None.

Attachment 1: Saint Paul Reimbursement Consideration Request

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION



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May 7, 2015

Ms. Jan Youngquist
Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Subject: Capital Improvement Project – Reimbursement Request from Future CIP
Grant SG-2008-058, Harriet Island Parking Lot

Dear Ms. Youngquist,

Mike Kimble and I spoke with and emailed Arne Stefferud today on the above mentioned project, and he advised us to work with you on this. We are writing to request reimbursement consideration by the Metropolitan Council from a future CIP, related to grant number SG-2008-058, Harriet Island Parking Lot, as amended to expire on December 31 2015. The project has been designed, engineered, and received approvals from the Army Corp and the St. Paul Public Works Department due to its close proximity to the ACOE levee. It was advertised for construction, but unfortunately, bids came in much higher than expected and we therefore are planning to make up the difference with local funds. The estimated shortfall and our reimbursement request is \$196,000.

We request this reimbursement consideration under the February, 2015, 2040 REGIONAL PARKS POLICY PLAN, Finance – Strategy 6 section, Reimbursement for development projects undertaken before they can be financed through the Capital Improvement Plan subsection, p. 91.

This project has had numerous delays beyond our control. We are determined to award this project as quickly as possible, and we very much appreciate the Metropolitan Council's understanding, patience and guidance. We would like this item to be on the June 2 MPOSC agenda, for approval by the full Council on June 24. If the full Council approves, we would then begin construction after the June 24 full Council meeting date. Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter! Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jody Martinez
Design and Construction Manager

Cc: Mike Hahm, CPRP, Director
Anne Gardner, Project Manager, Landscape Architect
Mike Kimble, Management Assistant III
Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, Metropolitan Council