

## Minutes of the

### MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

#### Committee Members Present:

Dean Johnston, Todd Kemery, Rick Theisen, Bill Weber, Michael Kopp, Sarah Hietpas, and Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

#### Committee Members Absent:

Robert Moeller, Anthony Taylor

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnston called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Johnston asked for a motion to approve the Agenda of the December 6, 2016 Meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Hietpas motioned and it was seconded by Weber to approve the agenda. The **Agenda was approved.**

Chair Johnston asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Theisen motioned and it was seconded by Hietpas to approve the minutes. The **Minutes were approved.**

#### PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

#### BUSINESS

**2016-255 River to River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan, Dakota County** – Michael Peterka, Planner

Peterka gave a presentation on the request from Dakota County to approve the River to River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Weber was pleased to see that the existing trail along Oakland Avenue is being moved back. He asked about other locations where this may also be the case.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County discussed segment along Highway 110 as well as along Wentworth.

Weber asked if there could be a 'system-wide' logo on signage the would identify this as a 'regional trail'.

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

1. Approve the River to River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Require Dakota County to submit estimated land or easement acquisition costs and specific parcel locations that were not identified in the master plan for Metropolitan Council review and approval prior to seeking future grants for acquisition.
3. Require that prior to initiating development, Dakota County send preliminary plans to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineer Manager at

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, so he may assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.

Theisen asked how long (overall) this trail development is expected to take. Sullivan stated that the vast majority of the trail is already in place, with work being done with the city and on the existing trail. Other areas will be determined by budget and priority. Most land is already in public ownership.

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

## **INFORMATION**

**Regional Parks System Visitor Study** – Raintry Salk, Research Analyst and Maureen Reynosa-Braak, Consultant

Salk introduced Maureen Reynosa-Braak who was hired to do the Regional Parks System Visitor Study. Salk gave background on the study as outlined in the PowerPoint shown.

Reynosa-Braak gave a presentation on the report that will be made available on the Council website.

Wulff asked if mean and medium were similar. Reynosa-Braak stated that they didn't break it out that way.

Wulff discussed the higher incomes found to be more satisfied and asked if these were clustered in certain areas. Reynosa-Braak stated that was not part of their data.

Theisen asked how interviewees were chosen. Reynosa-Braak noted that the methodology is in the report but it was very randomized.

Kemery asked how many locations were studied. Reynosa-Braak stated 117.

Salk discussed the next steps and subsequent analysis that will be done in-house.

Johnston asked how long before we could see changes and trends. Salk stated that the next study will be done in five years.

Weber asked if this survey informs the Use Estimates. Salk stated it does not. Weber asked how many questions were there and how long did it take. Salk stated there were 25 questions and it took about 10 minutes to complete a survey.

Theisen asked about future studies and if they will be comparable. Reynosa-Braak responded that this is the intent.

Salk noted where the electronic version of the study can be found on the Council's website.

**Parks and Trails Legacy Investment Highlights in the Metropolitan Region, Video Presentation** – Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave an overview of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund and showed a short video.

Mullin commented on the great work in putting this video together.

## REPORTS

**Chair:** Johnston noted that a Vice Chair will need to be approved in January and he noted he would like to appoint Todd Kemery.

**Commissioners:** Weber noted that he is resigning his position on the Commission but will attend until a replacement is found.

**Staff:** Mullin noted that Gillespie has resigned from her position. He stated that Districts A, B, C, D, and the Chair's positions are up for reappointment. Interviews will be held in January.

Kopp discussed the Anoka County Newsletter article. Mullin stated he would send out a [link](#).

Theisen noted there was a great article on Three Rivers Park District in the Minneapolis newspaper. Mullin stated a [link](#) to this would be sent out as well.

## ADJOURNMENT

**5:06 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary