

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 12, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tony Yarusso, Mike Kopp, Bob Moeller, Margie Andreason, Rick Theisen, Anthony Taylor, Todd Kemery, and Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent:

Catherine Fleming, Sarah Hietpas

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Special Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:04 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the June 5, 2018 Agenda. Andreason motioned, and it was seconded by Kopp to approve the agenda. The **Agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. It was motioned by Andreason and seconded by Moeller. The **Minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

BUSINESS

Central Anoka Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment - Jake Reilly, Local Planning Assistance and Tracey Kinney, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Kinney presented the master plan amendment submitted by Anoka County for the Central Anoka Regional Trail Master Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Kemery asked what the bridge connects to on the north side. Jeff Perry, Anoka County stated that the North Star Commuter Rail parking as well as other parking.

Kemery asked how the dimensions of the elevator, is as he is concerned about whether a hand cycle or recumbent bike would fit. Perry responded that they would fit.

Perry noted that there are currently 19 lanes of traffic on Highway 10 and associated roads required to cross to get from the City of Ramsey to the park. Public safety is the driving factor to extending the bridge across the highway.

Kemery asked about safety stop areas in the current crossing. Perry stated he would need to check on this and get back to Kemery.

Kemery asked if there are any other at grade crossings available. Perry stated that Armstrong Avenue will remain after the bridge is built.

Chair Yarusso asked if the old trail will be removed as he was concerned that we are approving a trail in close proximity to another trail. Perry noted that as soon as the new alignment is complete the old trail no longer be part of the regional system.

Wulff asked if there will be signage letting folks know to take the elevator to the bridge? Perry said yes, they will have wayfinding.

Taylor asked if there are current traffic counts for Highway 10? Perry stated yes, they have that data and he would be happy to share.

It was motioned by Kopp and seconded by Kemery to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Central Anoka Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.
2. Require that Anoka County, prior to initiating development of the regional trail, provide a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Ramsey that outlines and confirms use of the City owned right-of-way and easements for regional trail use.

Chair Yarusso called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Annual Metropolitan Regional Parks Operation and Maintenance Report - Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen gave a presentation on the Annual Metropolitan Regional Parks Operation and Maintenance report as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso noted that trail miles are not acknowledged. Jensen stated that trail miles are included in the total acreage.

It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Kemery to recommend that the Metropolitan Council accept the Regional Parks System state fiscal year 2019 operation and maintenance report, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – State Fiscal Year 2019 O&M Distribution

Agency	Reported actual 2017 O&M	Estimated distribution amount
Anoka County	\$5,886,728	\$728,165.95
Bloomington Parks	1,248,169	96,398.48
Carver County	1,334,570	123,785.46
Dakota County	5,952,034	462,575.58
Minneapolis Park Board	29,091,937	2,221,985.85
Ramsey County	7,337,683	687,538.50
Saint Paul Parks	16,800,270	1,321,481.65
Scott County	1,527,109	135,717.58
Three Rivers Park District - Hennepin & Scott	37,462,992	2,423,799.55
Washington County	3,981,073	338,551.40
Total	\$110,622,565	\$8,540,000.00

Chair Yarusso called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Release draft 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan for Public Comment and Set Public Hearing Date – Emmett Mullin, Manager (Regional Parks and Natural Resources), and Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (Regional Policy and Research)

Mullin and Marckel reviewed what is in the draft plan and recommended that it be released for public comment. They also discussed setting the public hearing date.

Mullin reviewed the summary of changes outlined in the materials provided.

Chapter 4, Strategy 2 highlights geographic balance as a stand-alone strategy independent from natural resources conservation. There was concern that it may create more issues than it solves. Staff will consider these questions carefully during the public comment period.

Theisen suggested adding 'age' to Chapter 7, Strategy 1.

Andreason discussed Chapter 7, Strategy 3 and emphasized the importance of broader community engagement with stakeholders to develop equity solutions.

Moeller asked about funding committed in this plan in regard to community engagement and soliciting groups of ethnic background that may have transportation issues, etc.

The committee discussed the changes in methodology to estimate the cost to complete the system – \$2.6 billion. The 2015 Policy Plan estimate was \$846 million. There was concern about such a significant increase and the large gap that exists between this total build-out cost and existing funding.

Taylor discussed programmatic investments and asked if those are counted in the estimate. Mullin stated that these were only acquisition and capital estimates.

Mullin commented on the desire to move the equity toolkit further “upstream” into the master planning process. This is something that needs further work and definition.

Taylor discussed the equity toolkit and stated it feels different than what is used with transportation, housing, or economic development. He felt those seems stronger. Mullin discussed the development of the equity toolkit and how the Council applies it. He stated that this has been a learning process.

Theisen felt an explanation of how the larger estimate to complete the system was arrived at, verses how the smaller number was arrived at. What changed? Wulff stated that the number is what it is. This doesn't mean that this number is what the Metropolitan Council will be responsible for. The significant majority of regional parks system funding comes from the implementing agencies. Theisen wants a stronger answer that is defensible. Mullin stated that we can provide more information around how the number was arrived at.

Mullin discussed the next steps as listed in the materials provided.

Wulff pointed out that the CDC Meetings are streamed live and also available on-line.

Andreason asked if the commission will hear what is coming out of the public comments and will this group discuss it. Mullin responded that staff are asking what the desire of the commission is.

Marckel discussed putting comments online and available to commission members as they come in.

Moeller shared his concern, regarding geographic balance, that we fund opportunistic larger parks. Marckel stated that we are not discussing system additions as part of this update but would be taking up this topic in 2019. Geographic balance will be a consideration.

Chair Yarusso noted the committee members may submit additional comments as well.

Wulff stated that usually after public comment periods a report is generated summarizing what was heard.

It was motioned by Andreason and seconded by Kemery to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* for public comment;
- Authorize a public hearing to be conducted regarding the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018 as part of the Community Development Committee meeting;
- Receive public comment from July 26 – September 24; and

- Direct staff to publish public hearing notices that includes the link to the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* for public comment under the Council’s administrative procedure for public hearings.

Chair Yarusso called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

INFORMATION

None.

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Yarusso reminded commission members in regard to releasing the draft, that this is an opportunity to get out to people and groups in your district and share the draft plan. Mullin added if you’re reaching out, feel free to ask Marckel or himself for help.

Chair Yarusso discussed upcoming meetings and noted that the next meeting is scheduled for August 7, which is National Night Out. He asked if members would like to start the MPOSC meeting earlier or reschedule all together. Staff will send out a poll.

Commissioners: Moeller stated that a summary of public comments would be helpful.

Staff: Mullin introduced Amanda Lovelee, the new Regional Parks Ambassador.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary