

## Minutes of the

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

Monday, November 8, 2018

#### Committee Members Present:

Tony Yarusso, Mike Kopp, Bob Moeller, Catherine Fleming, Rick Theisen, Todd Kemery, and Wendy Wulff

#### Committee Members Absent:

Margie Andreason, Sarah Hietpas, and Anthony Taylor,

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the special meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2018.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the November 8, 2018 Agenda. Moeller motioned, and it was seconded by Fleming to approve the agenda. The **agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2018 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Theisen. The **minutes were approved.**

#### PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

#### BUSINESS

##### **2018-301, Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, Carver County - Tracey Kinney, Planner**

Kinney presented the master plan amendment for the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail from Carver County as outlined in the materials provided.

Wulff stated she is concerned about paying twice for the trail – once with the acquisition and then again with the trail development and repair. Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks stated that when the purchase is made, there will be a stipulation that the proceeds be used to pay for fixing the trail.

Theisen asked how long the trail has been closed and why. Walsh stated that the trail was damaged in 2014 due to excessive rain event.

Theisen asked if we can assume the trail can be repaired. Walsh stated that the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority has done a fair amount of research and determined that it can be.

Kemery asked about the aggregate trail surface and shared a concern about trail upkeep, ensuring that the trail will be ADA accessible especially for narrow tires. He asked if other options have been researched. Walsh stated that this is an acquisition master plan and noted that they will be looking at trail surface options during the development master planning process to ensure the trail remains ADA accessible.

Kemery asked if this trail will hook up to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail that goes through Edina and Bloomington? Walsh stated that it will and discussed where this connection is shown on the map in the staff report.

Chair Yarusso noted that we do have a policy statement that discusses trail corridors must be developed for a lifespan of at least 10 years.

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

1. Approve Carver County's Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Acquisition Master Plan Amendment.
2. Approve the boundary adjustments transferring the following two regional trail segments to Carver County's Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Master Plan including:
  - 0.75-mile portion of Carver County's Southwest Regional Trail from County Road 61 in the City of Chaska to Bluff Creek Drive in the City of Chanhassen.
  - 2.25 miles of Three River Park District's Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail from Bluff Creek Drive in the City of Chanhassen and extending to the eastern county line near Pioneer Trail in Eden Prairie.
3. Direct Carver County to work with Three Rivers Park District to develop a timeline and use agreement outlining the transfer of management responsibilities to Carver County of the 2.25 miles of Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail.
4. Inform Carver County that it must submit the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Development Master Plan Amendment for Metropolitan Council approval prior to requesting funding for development.

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

**2018-302, Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan -** Libby Starling, Deputy Director, Emmett Mullin, Manager, and Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst

Mullin, Starling and Marckel presented the public comment report and discussed the recommendation to adopt the revised final update of the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso proposed that the actions recommended by staff would be taken separately.

Kemery made a motion and it was seconded by Kopp to recommend that the Metropolitan Council accept the Public Comment Report on the draft update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Kemery discussed Finance Chapter 8, equity considerations, and asked how the equity toolkit will be used in the future. Starling responded that the implementing agencies will continue to use the toolkit as they submit their projects. This new language clearly states this expectation.

Kemery asked about how equity considerations will be integrated into the master planning process. Mullin explained that master plans are initiated by the implementing agency and that public participation is an integral part of this process. The new equity analysis tool will help determine who benefits from the proposals in the master plan. This tool will be developed in the near future. He noted with each

master plan there is a requirement to include a resolution of support from the locally elected board. Public input is also part of the Council process.

Wulff noted that we don't amend master plans with outstanding issues. We will approve them or send them back if they do not meet the criteria outlined in the Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Mullin noted that before they go to MPOSC there is a lot of dialogue back and forth with regional park implementing agency staff.

Theisen asked how we define 'benefits' for the equity analysis tool. Mullin responded that it has not been developed yet but will help tie what is being proposed in the master plan to who it will serve.

Starling added that this is similar to analysis the Council does for major investments. The Council will look at who will benefit – who the users are likely to be and what the amenities are. This way we go forward with intentionality and purpose.

Theisen asked if it means benefits are measured by cost. Wulff responded not necessarily.

Fleming asked will we receive copies of comments with master plans? Starling stated you can always ask for more information.

Chair Yarusso called for a vote on the Public Comment Report motion. **Motion carried.**

Theisen made a motion and it was seconded by Fleming to recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the revised final update of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Fleming asked if there is public engagement prior to acquisition of land. Mullin responded that they do need to go through local boards and there is an opportunity for public input.

Fleming referred to verbiage to 'minimize negative impact' and stated that it doesn't talk about surrounding communities (under system protection).

Fleming asked for clarification on page 78 of the joint powers and asked about language that states 'open to all and not restrictive to residents'. Mullin explained that any sort of joint powers agreements ensures that all parks or trails in the Regional Parks System are open to all people and not just residents of that jurisdiction.

Moeller discussed removing prioritization language and asked if that language is approved by the Council. Starling stated that the language presented is from Councilmember Wulff and three others on the Community Development Committee. Wulff stated they believe there is general support from the Council for this proposed action.

Moeller asked about activities funded by the Metropolitan Council to promote equity – has this been clarified. Starling pointed out page 118 in the plan shows a work plan for the Council summarizing work that will be done from 2019 - 2022.

Chair Yarusso noted that the plan does commit bond funds to promote equity. Wulff noted that is for capital (not operations).

Moeller suggested adding language to support funding for (non-capital) equity promotion. Wulff stated this could be a direction to staff, but not a policy.

Chair Yarusso stated that page 105 talks about a grant program to strengthen equity. Moeller stated he wants to make sure the Council reflects the desire to find funding to support non-capital, programmatic work.

Chair Yarusso discussed legislative intentions (funding issues and procedural issues) on page 18 and asked for clarification for the record on the fund distribution policy. Starling stated it is on the agenda next as an info item and will be a future business item.

Chair Yarusso called for a vote on the motion to adopt the revised final update. **The motion carried.** Fleming abstained.

## **INFORMATION**

**Discussion of the Draft Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy and Draft Regional Parks System Fund Distribution Policy** - Libby Starling, Deputy Director, Heather Aagesen-Huebner, Director, and Emmett Mullin, Manager

Starling, Mullin and Aagesen-Huebner presented the draft Regional Park Funding Allocation Policy and the draft Regional Park System Fund Distribution Policy as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso asked about the administrative guide and what does it replace. Aagesen-Huebner stated it is not yet developed but will put more clarity to the process.

Theisen asked what staff is looking for in these drafts. Starling stated this is meant to give commission members an opportunity to give comment and feedback. Mullin stated that the intent is that these policies reflect what was in the Regional Parks Policy Plan and that there are not any significant changes. The financial information is being moved into a separate policy that will be regularly updated. The intent is to provide more clarity and transparency.

Moeller felt it is helpful to have this financial information as a stand-alone document.

Fleming asked about equity money. Mullin responded that new money, currently in the Council budget, is open for public comment.

## **REPORTS**

**Chair:** Chair Yarusso asked for updates going forward regarding the transition in the Governor's office and if that potentially means changes in this committee. He asked for ongoing updates.

Wulff noted that the Governor has to appoint Council Members by March 4, 2019. MPOSC appointments will come after that.

**Commissioners:** Fleming noted that Minneapolis has adopted a gardening ag plan.

**Staff:** Mullin introduced Colin Kelly, new Parks Planning Analyst.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary