

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Monday, October 1, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tony Yarusso, Bob Moeller, Catherine Fleming, Rick Theisen, Sarah Hietpas, Anthony Taylor, Todd Kemery, and Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent:

Margie Andreason, Mike Kopp

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 3:30 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the October 1, 2018 Agenda. Moeller motioned, and it was seconded by Hietpas to approve the agenda. The **agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Kemery. Theisen asked for one small correction on the first page, noting that he asked 'if' not 'how' inflation was taken into account. With that noted amendment, the **minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

BUSINESS

FY2020-2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Project Recommendations – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen reviewed a summary of the project recommendations for FY2020-2021 Parks and Trails Legacy funding as outlined in the materials provided. This is the final review of the project list and she is asking for approval of the recommendations listed to be forwarded to the Community Development Committee and the full Council.

Fleming asked about Minneapolis's projects and how they were chosen. Jensen noted that those decisions are made entirely by the Park Board.

Chair Yarusso discussed comments on timelines clarifying that before funds may be used, there needs to be an approved master plan in place. Jensen provided additional background on timelines, saying that an approved master plan is needed before a grant agreement can be executed. She noted that in some of the projects included in the recommendations, master plans or master plan amendments are not yet completed. These projects will not receive a grant agreement until this step has been completed. The agencies in question have stated that these master plans will be finalized in time for review and approval prior to project initiation. These projects are for State Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Jensen reiterated that a grant agreement would not be issued until such time that a master plan is approved.

Chair Yarusso asked for clarification on the review of grant agreements. Jensen responded that when the legislature has appropriated the funding the Council will approve the grants via a quarterly budget amendment. After that point (the budget authorization), grant agreements will be issued. So, in June 2019 we will bring in the FY2020 grants and the following year we will bring in the FY2021 grants.

Moeller asked for more clarification. Chair Yarusso stated that there are projects on this list that do not yet exist in an approved master plan, so these agencies will bring us an amendment or a new master plan for approval (sometime in 2019) and if approved the funds could then be issued.

Moeller asked if an agency comes with a new master plan or master plan amendment, with projects not listed here, are we unable to grant them money for those projects. Jensen replied that this money is completely allocated. If an agency wishes to change projects, there is a review process to ensure that the proposed project has an approved master plan, along with other requirements. At this time, the agencies would be able to amend their project request.

Kemery asked if an agency would still get their allotted amount (if a project was not done). Jensen stated agencies are allotted their portion of funds established through a formula and this allocation is 'their' money.

Wulff asked when the funds expire – when do projects need to be done by? Jensen stated it is three years from the date of availability.

Holly Jenkins, Wilderness in the City, asked to comment on projects located in Dakota County. She stated that her opposition was ignored. Despite opposition given at the local level for projects in Dakota County, there is no record of it in the County board minutes. She shared her concern with approving projects before a master plan is approved. She feels when this is done, public input has very little influence.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks discussed the Dakota County public engagement process done during the master planning process, as well as input opportunities available during the County Board review period.

Chair Yarusso reminded members that public engagement is a requirement identified in the Regional Parks Policy Plan for the master planning process.

Catherine Zimmer, commented on the age of some of the master plan and the process of their approval, including expressing concerns about some master plans that were approved over 30 years ago.

Hietpas asked how do differences in opinion around master planning get resolved. She stated that she has seen the 'disconnect' that Jenkins and Zimmer discussed but has yet to see a solution. She feels it is difficult to make a decision when all members have to go on is what staff puts before them. Chair Yarusso noted he would like to see a central repository that houses all of the master plans in the region.

Mullin spoke to the materials before the commission today. He stated that all of the projects were reviewed to ensure that each has an approved parks or trail master plan. He noted that two of the projects included in the recommendation will require a master plan amendment. He noted that those two projects are earmarked for future follow up.

Hietpas stated she is still concerned with the public engagement process for master plans.

Wulff noted that sometimes projects have both support and opposition, which requires the elected/appointed officials to make a decision based on input received and to the best of their ability.

Theisen made a motion and it was seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council accepts the recommendation of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to convey the attached list of proposed projects to the Governor's office for inclusion in the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation for the state fiscal 2020/2021 biennium.

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

INFORMATION

None.

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Yarusso noted that the next MPOSC Meeting will be held on November 8, 2018 (Thursday) in Room 1A, due to Election Day.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Mullin noted that the November meeting would include the final 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan proposed for adoption, along with a summary of comments and responses as well as a redline version of the 2040 Region Parks Policy Plan, outlining what changed as a result of public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary

Business Item 2018-261 Attachment 1
State Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Projects

Agency	Title	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	Pillar	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
Anoka County	Bunker Hills Regional Park - Bunker Beach Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,515	Take care of what we have		
Anoka County	Conservation Corps of Minnesota	\$ 155	\$ 160	Take care of what we have		
Anoka County	Peltier Lake Fishing Pier Parking Lot Construction	\$ 156	\$ -	Take care of what we have		
Anoka County	Wargo Nature Center Improvements Displays	\$ 350	\$ -	Take care of what we have	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,675
Bloomington	Bloomington Park Ambassador Program	\$ 34	\$ 34	Connect people and the outdoors		
Bloomington	East Bush Lake Trails	\$ -	\$ 306	Take care of what we have		
Bloomington	Normandale Lake Restrooms and Maintenance Garage Replacement	\$ 303	\$ -	Take care of what we have	\$ 337	\$ 340
Carver County	Lake Waconia Regional Park Development	\$ -	\$ 287	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Carver County	Outreach	\$ 28	\$ 28	Connect people and the outdoors		
Carver County	Parks Operations and Natural Resource Manager	\$ 45	\$ 46	Take care of what we have		
Carver County	Recreation and Volunteer Specialist	\$ 38	\$ 39	Connect people and the outdoors		
Carver County	TH5 Regional Trail, MN Arboretum Connection	\$ 285	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities	\$ 396	\$ 400
Dakota County	Big Rivers Regional Trail Trailhead Improvements	\$ 1,241	\$ -	Connect people and the outdoors		
Dakota County	Park System Marketing	\$ 100	\$ 100	Connect people and the outdoors		
Dakota County	Parks Outreach and Engagement Coordinator	\$ 81	\$ 84	Connect people and the outdoors		
Dakota County	Spring Lake Park Reserve - Master Plan Capital Improvements	\$ -	\$ 1,249	Connect people and the outdoors	\$ 1,422	\$ 1,434
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Above the Falls - Hall's Island and the Park on the Scherer Site	\$ 228	\$ 1,571	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Above the Falls Regional Park Implementation	\$ 1,261	\$ 842	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Central Mississippi Water Works	\$ 306	\$ 219	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Minnehaha Park Pavilion Improvements, Phase 2	\$ 629	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Minnehaha Parkway Implementation Phase 2	\$ 461	\$ -	Take care of what we have		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Mississippi Gorge Implementation Phase 2	\$ 421	\$ 1,710	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Theodore Wirth Implementation	\$ 1,000	\$ -	Take care of what we have	\$ 4,306	\$ 4,342

Business Item 2018-261 Attachment 1
State Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Projects

Agency	Title	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	Pillar	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
Ramsey County	Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements Phase 2	\$ 100	\$ 100	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Ramsey County	Battle Creek Upper Afton Playground Redevelopment, Phase 2	\$ 413	\$ -	Take care of what we have		
Ramsey County	Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area Phase 1	\$ -	\$ 501	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Ramsey County	Bruce Vento Master Plan and Design	\$ 300	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Ramsey County	Conservation Corps of Minnesota	\$ 110	\$ 110	Connect people and the outdoors		
Ramsey County	Master Plan Updates	\$ 75	\$ 75	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Ramsey County	Outreach Program Specialist	\$ 125	\$ 125	Connect people and the outdoors		
Ramsey County	System-Wide Off-Leash Area Improvements	\$ -	\$ 225	Take care of what we have		
Ramsey County	Vadnais-Snail Lakes Flood Redesign and Reconstruction	\$ 300	\$ 300	Take care of what we have		
Ramsey County	Volunteer Coordinator	\$ 75	\$ 75	Connect people and the outdoors	\$ 1,498	\$ 1,511
Saint Paul	Bruce Vento - Sam Morgan Rregional Trails Design, Engineer & Construct Pedestrian Connection Bridge	\$ 450	\$ 1,100	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Como Park Zoo and Conservatory - Shuttle	\$ 105	\$ 105	Connect people and the outdoors		
Saint Paul	Como Regional Park -Reconstruct Parking Lots along Lexington Parkway	\$ 89	\$ 660	Take care of what we have		
Saint Paul	Great River Passage Division	\$ 170	\$ 170	Connect people and the outdoors		
Saint Paul	Hidden Falls - Crosby Farm RP Master Plan Implementation	\$ 100	\$ 400	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Indian Mounds Interpretive Plan Implementation	\$ 500	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Point Douglas Regional Trail Master Planning	\$ 100	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Robert Piram Design & Engineering of Bridge at Barge Channel	\$ 700	\$ 100	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Robert Piram Trail Construction	\$ 300	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Saint Paul	Volunteer and Education Coordinators	\$ 150	\$ 150	Acquire land, create opportunities	\$ 2,664	\$ 2,685
Scott County	Cleary Lake Regional Park Maintenance Shop Development Phase 2	\$ 450	\$ -	Take care of what we have		
Scott County	Regional Trail Master Planning	\$ 219	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Scott County	Spring Lake Regional Park Lakefront Design and Development - Phase 1	\$ -	\$ 674	Connect people and the outdoors	\$ 669	\$ 674
Three Rivers Park District	Dakota Rail Regional Trail Microsurfacing	\$ -	\$ 475	Take care of what we have		
Three Rivers Park District	Lake Independence Regional Trail Reconstruction	\$ -	\$ 1,000	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Three Rivers Park District	Mississippi Gateway Regional Park Design and Construction	\$ 4,354	\$ 2,915	Acquire land, create opportunities	\$ 4,354	\$ 4,390

Business Item 2018-261 Attachment 1
 State Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Projects

Agency	Title	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	Pillar	SFY 2020	SFY 2021
Washington County	Cottage Grove Ravine Multiuse Building	\$ 845	\$ -	Acquire land, create opportunities		
Washington County	Lake Elmo Park Reserve Maintenance Facility Improvements	\$ 100	\$ -	Take care of what we have		
Washington County	Lake Elmo Park Reserve Pavilion Play Areas	\$ -	\$ 450	Take care of what we have		
Washington County	St. Croix Bluffs Play Areas	\$ -	\$ 502	Take care of what we have	\$ 945	\$ 952
Total					\$ 18,252	\$ 18,402