

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Rick Theisen, Sarah Hietpas, Anthony Taylor, Michael Kopp, Wendy Wulff, Todd Kemery, Tony Yarusso, Margie Andreason

Committee Members Absent:

Bob Moeller, Catherine Fleming

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso noted that item #5 – 2018-333, Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy and Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy would need to be removed and would be brought back to this Committee at the January Meeting. Mullin explained that staff had asked for additional time to review. Wulff asked if there are going to be significant changes. She understood that the current language would not change from the Regional Parks Policy Plan information and that the policy was just being moved from the Regional Parks Policy Plan and becoming a stand-alone policy. Mullin responded that the information would not change significantly.

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2018 Agenda as amended. It was motioned by Andreason and seconded by Theisen to approve the agenda as amended. The **agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2018 special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. It was motioned by Theisen and seconded by Kopp. The **minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

Edna Brazaitis and Ted Tucker asked that all properties located within the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan be labeled as 'park' in the land use plan of the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. They expressed appreciation for the coordinated effort with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis.

Brazaitis gave an example of a past experience where this did not happen and created many issues. She gave a list of parcels that should be listed as park that should be included so that in the future if the question should arise, the park boundaries are clearly identified.

BUSINESS

2018-329 North Mississippi Regional Park Fund Joint Grant Request, Trail Rehabilitation, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Three Rivers Park District –

Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre presented a request from both MPRB and Three Rivers Park District for a final grant request from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund for rehabilitation of existing trails and facilities within North Mississippi Regional Park as outlined in the materials provided.

Dupre suggested an amendment to page 3 of the report and stated that the new corrected language would be included with the Community Development Committee business item.

Chair Yarusso asked if there will be a separate action to terminate this fund now that this fund will be depleted. Dupre stated that this action would not be necessary because the fund sunset within the legislation.

Wulff asked if the Weber Swimming Pool would be fixed. Adam Arvidson, Minneapolis Parks discussed the water quality issues and steps they are taking to make improvements.

Kemery asked about Figure 2 in the report and if the trail continues beyond Camden Bridge. Arvidson noted that the yellow line is actually the park boundary, however he noted that there is a trail that goes over Camden Bridge.

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

1. Approve a development grant in the amount of \$478,000 from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to complete the rehabilitation of existing trails and facilities within North Mississippi Regional Park.
2. Approve a development grant in the amount of \$1,040,000 from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund to Three Rivers Park District to complete the reconstruction of existing trails within North Mississippi Regional Park.
3. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Chair Yarusso noted that he is glad the two agencies were able to come together on this request. He called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

2018-330 Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment and Boundary Adjustment, Three Rivers Park District – Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst

Kelly presented the Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment and boundary adjustment request from Three Rivers Park District as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso spoke to page seven of the staff report regarding additional property that Three Rivers Park District might be interested in and asked why they are not included in the boundary adjustment at this time. Kelly Grissman, Three Rivers Park District stated that in order to do a master plan boundary adjustment, Three Rivers needed approval from the city, and the city would not grant approval without first having a willing seller.

Kemery asked if the new parcel touches the lake and if this is the only access to the lake. Grissman stated they are not planning an access to the lake at this time. She noted that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has a boat launch (for non-motorized boats only) and the parking lot is adjacent to this property.

Chair Yarusso asked Grissman to show ownership around the lake. She described all properties including 5-6 private family homes and one additional private parcel that is undeveloped that the owner has recently approached Three Rivers Park District about a potential future sale of that property.

Wulff asked about the house on the property to be acquired with this current request. Grissman stated it will be taken down as it is too substantial to be moved.

Taylor asked whether there would be programming at Kingswood Special Recreation Feature? Grissman explained that programming efforts are currently very minor, and long-term planning will potentially expand programming to nature and water interpretation.

It was motioned by Theisen and seconded by Hietpas to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Three Rivers Park District's Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment.
2. Approve the boundary adjustment adding 17.97 acres of high-quality, natural resource land on Little Long Lake in the City of Minnetrista.
3. Inform Three Rivers Park District that it must submit the Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Development Master Plan Amendment for Metropolitan Council approval prior to requesting funding for development.

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

2018-331, Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Kingswood Special Recreation Feature, Three Rivers Park District – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Financial Planner

Jensen gave a presentation on a request from Three Rivers Park District for a Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund grant for Kingswood Special Recreation Feature as outlined in the materials provided.

Theisen asked what makes this a Special Recreation Feature. Mullin stated that total acreage is less than what is required for a 'regional park' but noted that the high quality natural resources and high water quality of the lake make it worthy of protection as a Special Recreation Feature.

Chair Yarusso asked about the purchase agreement being executed prior to the boundary adjustment. Jensen explained that this just secures the opportunity to purchase the property prior to the actual sale.

Kemery asked if the purchase wouldn't happen if the Council didn't approve the boundary adjustment. Jensen explained why this was done to give the most flexibility in how it will be funded.

Wulff noted that typically we run out of Legacy acquisition funding before Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) dollars. Could we split the property and use the Legacy funds for the structure and the ENRTF funds for the natural resource property? Jensen stated that because of the acreage restrictions on the ENRTF appropriations, we are not able to use it for this acquisition.

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

1. Approve a grant of up to \$1,650,000 to Three Rivers Park District to acquire the 17.97-acre Baker parcel in the City of Minnetrista at 1705 Retreat Circle for the Kingswood Special Recreation Feature;
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council;
3. Consider reimbursing Three Rivers Park District for up to \$550,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding Program; and

4. Inform Three River Park District that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that future reimbursement will be granted and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

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

2018-332, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Grey Cloud Island Regional Park, Washington County (Hale) - Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Financial Planner

Jensen gave a presentation on a request from Washington County for a Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Grey Cloud Island Regional Park as outlined in the materials provided.

Andreason asked why we are paying more than the appraised value. Jensen stated this is what it took to get a willing seller.

Taylor asked what is left to be acquired? Ms. Brewer, Washington County park director, stated that the Master Plan was approved in 1994 and stated that there is still a quite a bit to be acquired. A large portion of the island is currently being mined. She noted there are also private properties and a parcel that is owned by a church camp.

Chair Yarusso asked about the dredging easement. Jensen was not sure but thought it may have to do with flooding concerns.

Dingle noted that the US Army Corps of Engineers dredges the area due to excess sediment, which allows better water flowage to Mooer's Lake, improving water quality and allowing boats to navigate.

It was motioned by Theisen and seconded by Taylor to recommend the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$393,543.90 to Washington County to acquire the 20.15-acre Hale parcel located at 11701 Grey Cloud Island in the City of Cottage Gove for Grey Cloud Island Regional Park; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

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

2018-334, Update Bylaws of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission – Emmett Mullin, Manager Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Mullin discussed the update to the bylaws, to change the meeting date from the first Tuesday of every month to the first Thursday. He also discussed a few other minor changes as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso discussed Page 3, B. The Chairperson may be removed at the pleasure of the Council is already in statute. He was concerned that it is duplicative and concerned that if the statute changed the bylaws would need to be updated as well. He suggested new language or stated it could remain the same and asked for other's thoughts.

Theisen suggested keeping the language consistent.

Chair Yarusso discussed Page 4, D. H noted that we haven't been following the order of business exactly. He asked do we edit to what we are doing or remove the language 'The business of the

Commission shall be conducted in the following order' and instead just state 'The business of the Commission shall include the following.

Mullin suggested that the public invitation portion remain before business or information so that members of the public wishing to speak would not need to sit through the entire meeting to do so and would be able to leave after they'd given their input desired.

Theisen made a motion to accept the bylaws as stated and it was seconded by Andreason.

Chair Yarusso amended the motion to move D. 6. to after D. 3. It was seconded by Hietpas.

Kemery amended the motion to add language to A., stating that Commission Members, other than the Chair, may be removed by the Council only for cause. Theisen seconded that motion.

Chair Yarusso called for a vote on both his and Kemery's amendments. **That motion carried.**

Chair Yarusso revisited the idea of moving the meetings to the first Thursday of each month. There was discussion regarding to Commission members not present.

Chair Yarusso made a motion to post-pone the decision to move the meeting date. It was seconded by Kemery.

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

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Yarusso asked if January 3 was going to work for members for our next meeting. It was decided that Dingle would poll members.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Mullin thanked members for all the hard work and input into the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan that was adopted by the Council at their meeting last week.

Mullin discussed the transition that the Council is undergoing and noted that Chair Tchourumoff's last day was last week. The appointment of a new chair and all Council Members will happen by March 4. He noted for this commission, there are four seats open and stated that Hietpas and Kopp are not reapplying and stated that Taylor is still considering it.

Wulff clarified that MPOSC members will continue to serve until new members have been appointed.

Chair Yarusso asked about the Equity Grant Program. Mullin stated that we may have an open discussion about this program at our next meeting.

Chair Yarusso asked about a joint meeting with the Equity Advisory Committee. Mullin stated it may be possible and thought it was an interesting idea. Chair Yarusso added that even having a representative of that Committee at our meeting would be helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary