

Minutes

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: April 7, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Tony Yarusso, At-large | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assata Brown, District D | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Taylor, District G |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monica Dillenburg, District A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Peichel, District E | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Kemery, District H |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Moeller, District B | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cecily Harris, District F | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cana Yang, District C | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on the following roll call.

Present	9	Brown, Dillenburg, Harris, Kemery, Moeller, Peichel, Taylor, Yang, Yarusso
Absent	0	

Agenda Approved

Chair Yarusso noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a committee member offered an amendment to the agenda. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Peichel, seconded by Dillenburg to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	9	Brown, Dillenburg, Harris, Kemery, Moeller, Peichel, Taylor, Yang, Yarusso
Nay	0	
Absent	0	

Public Invitation

No one requested to speak.

Business

1. **2022-86:** Big Marine Park Reserve, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (Kelley), Washington County – (Chee Yang, Planner)

It was moved by Peichel, seconded by Moeller, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$962,700 to Washington County to acquire the 79.04-acre Kelley

Land and Cattle Company property located at 170th Street North in May Township for Big Marine Park Reserve.

2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

Yang gave a presentation on a request from Washington County for an acquisition of the Kelley property as outlined in the materials provided. He noted the acquisition will be funded with the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant and Metropolitan Council match.

Chair Yarusso clarified that the appraised value was less than the purchase cost and that this is due to additional stewardship costs. Yang confirmed this was accurate.

Chair Yarusso asked whether easements encroach on recreational uses? Sharon Price, Washington County acquisition specialist stated that these easements will not impact recreational activities planned in the master plan.

Council Member Liaison Vento commented on this spectacular site and thanked the Washington County team.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Aye	9	Brown, Dillenburg, Harris, Kemery, Moeller, Peichel, Taylor, Yang, Yarusso
Nay	0	
Absent	0	

Information

1. Dakota County Marketing, Awareness and Promotion Plan Community Engagement Findings (Anna Ferris, Dakota County Outreach Coordinator)

Ferris gave a presentation on Dakota County's marketing, awareness and promotion plan and discussed community engagement findings as outlined in the presentation provided.

Chair Yarusso asked if Dakota County has a parks commission or an advisory group. Ferris said they have a commission, but this effort will be a less formal workgroup formed to discuss equity and provide input.

Chair Yarusso asked how it would be organized. Ferris stated they are still figuring out the scope and content but felt it would be more of a workgroup than a formal advisory commission.

Peichel asked about Dakota County outreach events and how they are organized and promoted. Ferris stated that the goal of these events is to build and maintain relationships. They always identify an event contact and offer Spanish language text options.

Moeller asked about the potluck dinners and outreach to churches or other religious institutions. Ferris stated sharing food is a great way to share culture but noted liabilities can make these events complicated.

Reports

1. Chair

Chair Yarusso discussed holding commission meetings in-person beginning in May. He also discussed the possibility of tours this summer.

2. Committee Members

Taylor asked whether there are any legislative initiatives that commissioners can help support. Mullin noted the bonding initiatives for both the Regional Parks System as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Taylor referenced the Outdoor Recreation Task Force and wondered about this effort, including more funding, and more flexible funding to support programming.

Peichel noted the LCCMR is coming up for reauthorization in the coming year and stated we should see something before the next legislative session. He will keep the Commission apprised.

3. Council Liaison

None.

4. Staff

Mullin told commissioners if they have concerns about returning to in-person meetings, to please let staff know.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting of April 7, 2022.

Approved this 5th day of May 2022.

Council Contact:

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