

**Minutes of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION**

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Committee Members Present: Barbara Schmidt, Seyon Nyanwleh, Emily Piper, Carrie Wasley, Daniel Shlaferman, Tony Yarusso,

Committee Members Absent: Jeffrey Lee, Dean Johnston, Bob Moeller, Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Yarusso called the regular meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Nyanwleh to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Shlaferman, seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to interested person to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.

None.

BUSINESS

Kingswood Special Recreation Feature Proposal – Amendment to 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst – Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Youngquist gave a presentation on the request by Three Rivers Park District to amend the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan to add Kingswood Special Recreation Feature into the regional parks system. She reviewed the proposal outlined in the staff report provided.

Schmidt asked what is happening on the northern portion of the lake. Youngquist stated that this is a bog area.

Schmidt asked how deep and how many acres it consisted of. Youngquist replied it is 76 feet deep and 65 acres.

Schmidt asked are the residences going to become inholdings. Youngquist responded not at this time and noted there are two large expensive homes.

Wasley asked if the two homes have a private lake. It was noted that there is a public boat launch; however the lake is too small for speed boats.

Schmidt asked about providing a service learning center. Youngquist stated that they are flushing out ideas for uses at this time.

Nyanwleh asked why the recommended motion before us does not contain any dollar amounts for estimated costs of development, etc. Youngquist stated that this is the first step – to include Kingswood as a Special Recreation Feature in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Nyanwleh asked if this type of request is typical. Youngquist noted that this is a very unique opportunity.

Schmidt asked why it is not being considered a Regional Park. Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers Park District stated that the intent is to manage and help people to learn about water resources. He noted that if it were a Regional Park, there may be pressure to add playgrounds, etc. He also stated that the DNR has a conservation easement on a portion of the property and does not allow many uses associated with a regional park.

Schmidt asked if there will be a campground. Vlaming stated that a decision has not been made yet regarding continued use of the existing campground.

Yarusso asked about the dorm type buildings. Vlaming stated that they have done an assessment of these buildings and do not feel they should be refurbished but instead removed.

Nyanwleh asked if there are any other buyers. Vlaming stated not that he knows of. He stated they were approached by the church (the sellers), a full appraisal was done and the price was negotiated down quite a bit since then.

Wasley asked for clarification on why we have to amend the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Yarusso explained that because we are adding a park (Special Recreation Feature) to the system it requires an amendment. Youngquist explained that search areas were identified in the last Regional Parks Policy Plan and this property was not yet identified as a future component of the regional parks system.

Shlaferman asked for more details of a comparison to Square Lake Special Recreation Feature in Washington County. Youngquist stated that this property also has high water quality that draws scuba divers. This will be more about education of water quality however.

Nyanwleh asked what if there is no budget or the plan is not approved. Youngquist stated that Three Rivers is in the process of preparing an Acquisition Master Plan and discussed the proposed schedule. She noted that Three Rivers could purchase the property on their own if the master plan is not approved. Vlaming stated that part of the purchase agreement is to have the property recognized as a special recreation feature and to have an approved Acquisition Master Plan as well as a Development Master Plan.

Piper asked how long the purchase agreement is good for. Vlaming stated that the purchase agreement was drafted before the schedule was established; however they are working with the seller to close by June 12 (rather than May 30).

Stefferdud provided some historical context referring to a farm sold in Scott County which became Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park. He noted that in this case, Three Rivers is working with the seller to amend the purchase agreement and extend the closing date to align with the Council's schedule for considering the amendment to the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan, the master plan and the Park Acquisition Opportunity grant.

Wasley asked about changes to the Regional Parks Policy Plan that don't have anything to do with Kingswood. She is concerned that we're tweaking language and feels we already did this. Youngquist replied that the language regarding Special Recreation Features in the Regional Parks Policy Plan is changed to show the effect of designating the Camp Kingswood site as a Special Recreation Feature. Language regarding The Landing is proposed to be revised to eliminate out-of-date information.

Nyanwleh asked if this is not approved, what happens. Yarusso stated nothing happens; however, the Council could approve it anyway, as this Commission is an advisory board.

Nyanwleh stated it is confusing and he feels it is rushed. Yarusso stated that the public hearing process would provide an opportunity for comments and it would come back to us. He noted that staff will be taking this on to Community Development Committee with MPOSC recommendations. The full Council will make the final decision.

It was moved by Wasley, seconded by Piper to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing on April 15, 2013 as part of its Community Development Committee meeting regarding amending the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* to recognize the proposed Kingswood Special Recreation Feature as a component of the regional parks system. The hearing record shall remain open until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 25, 2013.
2. Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the proposed amendments to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings.

Vice Chair Yarusso called for a vote. **The motion carried** – 5 voting yes, Nyanwleh voting nay.

Change in Scope and Extend Duration of Carver County Park Grant SG-2011-106 – Tori Dupre, Sr. Planner – Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Dupre gave a presentation outlining the request from Carver County to change the scope of Carver County Park Grant SG-2011-106 as outlined in the materials provided.

Schmidt asked for how it is possible to fund additional projects from this grant. Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks explained that the first project is coming in under budget and therefore they are making their request to expand the scope of that grant to include two more projects.

It was moved by Schmidt, seconded by Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2011-106 to Carver County by extending the grant's expiration date to June 30, 2016 and change the scope of the grant by adding the following projects to Section 2 of the grant agreement:

1. Provide a partial match to a \$1,202,000 federal grant for engineering, construction and landscaping of 5.5 miles of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail and trailhead from the City of Mayer west to the Carver County boundary, Phase II, as shown in **Attachment 2**.
2. Provide a partial match to a \$437,000 federal grant to acquire land needed for approximately 0.8 miles of the Southwest Regional Trail shown in **Attachment 3**.

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

INFORMATION

Scott County – Three Rivers Partnership: Expanding Services Through Collaboration – Mark Themig, General Manager – Scott County Parks Department and Boe Carlson, Associate Superintendent - Three Rivers Park District

Carlson gave some history on the partnership formed between Scott County and Three Rivers Park District. He noted the goal is to build and operate the system as efficiently and effectively as possible. He discussed their collective approach to parks and trails.

Carlson discussed the structure:

- County Park Advisory Commission (appointed)
- Partnership Policy Commission (Chair/Vice Chair of both boards)
- Scott County and Three Rivers Park Boards – decisions go to Board where land is located.

Carlson discussed the decision flow as shown in the pamphlet provided.

Themig discussed the partnership implementation and partnership initiatives including development, visitor services, and public safety.

Wasley asked if they can show definitive amounts of money saved. Themig stated \$119,000 was saved but reinvested in non-sworn public safety officers, maintenance, natural resource management, and branding.

Themig discussed measuring success including:

- Expanded operations
- New programs
- New partnerships and relationships
- Enhanced our natural world
- Maintained visitor safety

Piper asked Carlson how this has compared to when Hennepin became Three Rivers. Carlson stated there are similarities and discussed the evolution of delivery of services while recognizing what different agencies can bring to the table.

Nyanwleh asked is this the first partnership. Themig stated that it is and noted that all agencies do work together.

REPORTS

Chair: None

Commissioners: None

Staff: Stefferud noted that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary