

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: April 30, 2013 **and May 7, 2013**

Subject: Scheduling off-site MPOSC meetings/tours for summer 2013

District(s), Member(s): All Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission Districts

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute Section 473.303

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arne Stefferud, Manager -Regional Parks and Natural Resources (Ph. 651-602-1360)

Division/Department: Community Development Division

Introduction

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission has held offsite business meetings in the summer months. This allowed the Commission to also tour regional park sites and facilities financed with regional park capital improvement grants and to discuss policy issues. This memorandum lists what has been done the past several years and proposes a schedule and location of off-site meetings/tours for 2013. Final decisions on the dates of the tours would be made at the May 7th MPOSC meeting.

2010

June 8: Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park—St. Paul. Met at the Clarence Wigington pavilion for a business meeting, and then toured the park.

July 6: Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park—Scott County. Met at Scott County Government Center for a business meeting, and then toured the park.

August 9: Theodore Wirth Regional Park—Mpls. Park & Rec. Board. Met at the Wirth Chalet for a business meeting, and then toured the park focusing on the Wirth Beach area.

2011

June 7: Spring Lake Park Reserve —Dakota County. MPOSC business meeting at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center. Toured picnic area and visitor center.

Special meeting July 19 in lieu of July 5: Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature -- Three Rivers Park District and Dakota Rail Regional Trail portion in Three Rivers Park District and portion in Carver County. MPOSC business meeting at the Gale Woods Farm SRF. Toured the farm and the Dakota Rail Regional Trail from Gale Woods westward into Carver County.

Special meeting Sept. 13 in lieu of September 6: Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park— Ramsey County. MPOSC business meeting at nature center. Toured Nature Play Area and 1 acre Children’s Garden which were recently financed from a Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant.

2012

June 5: Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve--Three Rivers Park District and City of Bloomington. Toured Hyland play area expansion financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant, reconstructed trails at West Bush Lake Park as well as the parking lots proposed for reconstruction in 2013, trails under reconstruction at Normandale Lake Park, and Bush Lake Beach. MPOSC business meeting at Hyland Lake Visitor Center

August 7: Anoka County regional parks and trails along the Mississippi River. Toured Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park, the Mississippi River Regional Trail section from Anoka County Riverfront upstream to Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park and Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. MPOSC business meeting at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.

Special meeting September 11 in lieu of September 4: Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Washington County. Toured lighted cross-country ski trails and Nordic Center financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund and State bond financed grants. MPOSC business meeting at Nordic Center.

Recommendations for 2013

Dates and times recommended for the meetings and tours are:

Tuesday June 4, 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday July 2, 3 to 6 p.m. **Or** Special Meeting July 9 to avoid July 4th

Tuesday August 6, 3 to 6 p.m. **Or** Special Meeting August 13 to avoid National Night Out

Tuesday, September 3, 3 to 6 p.m. **Or** Special Meeting September 10 to avoid Labor Day

The following locations for tours and meetings are recommended based on touring agencies the MPOSC has not seen in the past two years and specific parks or trails that the MPOSC has not seen in the past three years: Proposals are based on input from the host park agencies.

1. Scott County--Spring Lake Regional Park. Tour recently completed projects financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grants. MPOSC meeting either at the Prior Lake City Hall or the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (either at Mystic Lake Casino or perhaps at their offices). Based on other dates below, preferred date is June 4th.
2. Anoka County—tour Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve including recent improvements at Wargo Nature Center and other projects financed with Parks and Trails Legacy and State bond grants. MPOSC meeting at Wargo Nature Center. Preferred date is July 2nd or July 9th. **Anoka County staff prefer July 9th.**

3. City of St. Paul—Como Regional Park. Tour recently completed swimming facility financed with State bond and Parks and Trails Legacy grants, plus reconstructed Lily pond and other improvements financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grants. Meet at either a room in the Education Resource Center or Lakeside Pavilion. Preferred date is August 6 or 13. **City of St. Paul staff prefer August 6.**

4. Dakota County—tour portion of Mississippi River Regional Trail through recently completed section at Pine Bend Scientific and Natural Area and adjacent section under construction in City of Rosemount. MPOSC meeting location to be determined. Preferred date is September 3 or 10th.