

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Tony Yarusso, Rick Theisen, Robert Moeller, Anthony Taylor, Michael Kopp, Margie Andreason, and Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

Committee Members Absent:

Todd Kemery, Sarah Hietpas

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the Agenda of the Meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Andreason motioned and it was seconded by Moeller to approve the agenda. The **Agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Moeller motioned and it was seconded by Kopp to approve the minutes. The **Minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

BUSINESS

2017-60, Crow River Regional Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave a presentation of the Crow River Regional Trail Master Plan submitted by Three Rivers Park District as outlined in the materials provided.

Moeller asked if there is anywhere to camp along the waterway if putting in a canoe at Watertown. Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers Park District stated there is one canoe campsite in Crow Hassan Regional Park. They've talked about future development of campsites. Moeller suggested this be looked into further.

Chair Yarusso stated that there are a handful of DNR maintained accessible campsites.

Theisen asked how do they plan to get through Hwy 101. Ann Rexine, Three Rivers Park District, responded stating the trail crosses Hwy 94 by a grade separated bridge. As it moves east, pedestrians are at a lower level with steep embankments where there are safety issues. MnDOT has pledged to work with Three Rivers Park District to improve the crossing.

Moeller asked what is a diverging diamond? Youngquist showed a video explaining it, which is basically a road layout that eliminates the need to make a left turn against traffic.

Taylor asked about usage estimates. Rexine stated that there are an estimated 290,000 visits once the trail is fully realized.

Taylor asked what the timeframe is for trail completion. Vlaming stated that they do not have an estimated timeline on the buildout.

It was motioned by Theisen, seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Crow River Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Inform Three Rivers Park District that only the portions of the Crow River Regional Trail that are located within Hennepin and Carver Counties are considered components of the metropolitan regional parks system and are thus eligible for regional parks funding through the Metropolitan Council.

Chair Yarusso encouraged the park district to identify points where it is safe to get in/out of the river and also provide connections to the river from the trail.

Chair Yarusso asked about planning for Wright County – are they separate? Youngquist stated that there are separate plans incorporated into one document.

Chair Yarusso clarified that we are not approving portions of the Master Plan in Wright County. Youngquist confirmed.

Chair Yarusso asked, on the north end near Dayton, how far away would there be a safe crossing. Rexine stated in Champlin, Hwy 169.

Moeller commented about rental biking becoming more popular. He suggested it would be nice to have something like this long the trail. Vlaming discussed work being done to look at this with the Mississippi Regional Trail.

Moeller asked about equity in the Master Plan process. Youngquist stated there is a requirement in the Master Plan process to reach out through engagement with all populations.

Moeller asked about ADA compliance. Youngquist discussed 11 requirements and that one talks about accessibility and new facilities must be ADA accessible.

Theisen asked what kind of joint meeting or structure is set up with Wright County. Vlaming stated that they have an individual agreement with other joint properties. Once this is approved, a joint trail agreement will be put together.

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

2017-61 Future Reimbursement Consideration for Anoka County's Emergency Sewer and Water Project at Bunker Hills Regional Park – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen gave a presentation on the request from Anoka County for future reimbursement consideration for an emergency sewer and water project at Bunker Hills Regional Park as outlined in the materials provided.

Andreason asked if there are any similar requests competing with Anoka County. Jensen stated no and clarified that funding agencies receive from the CIP is established by formula and only for Anoka County.

Kopp asked where the contamination is coming from. Jeff Perry, Anoka County stated that the source is coming from the well. Solvents that have permeated the ground sources. The water is safe for washing but not drinking. The research shows it is localized.

It was motioned by Kopp, seconded by Andreason to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$250,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program for costs incurred to connect the Bunker Hills Regional Park Visitor Center to city water and sewer, unless a state bond appropriation is enacted during the 2017 legislative session and Anoka County's share is sufficient to cover the cost of the project.
2. Inform Anoka County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that 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.**

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Yarusso asked, for newly appointed commissioners, about economic interest disclosures. Mullin has reached out and they are going to be sending something soon.

Chair Yarusso stated Ramsey County is pursuing a Master Plan amendment for Trout Brooke Regional Trail. There will be community engagement meetings on 3/13, 3/15, and 3/21. You can go to their website for more information.

Commissioners: Theisen asked about the July 4th meeting, which falls on a Tuesday. He would like to address as soon as possible. Chair Yarusso discussed a couple of options. Staff will poll the Commission, as we will need a quorum for the July meeting.

Staff: Mullin reported working with the Secretary of State Office to post the vacancy in District G on April 3rd – more to come.

Mullin gave an update on the Legislative Session.

ADJOURNMENT

5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary