

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

**Committee Members Present:** Dean Johnston, Carrie Wasley, Daniel Shlaferman, Tony Yarusso, Barbara Schmidt, Seyon Nyanwleh, Bob Moeller, Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

**Committee Members Absent:** Emily Piper

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Johnston called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2013.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Wasley, seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2013 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**

**Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan, Dakota County** – Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave a PowerPoint presentation discussing the master plan submitted by Dakota County for the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Regional Trail as outlined in the materials provided.

Youngquist reviewed the background, analysis, demand, development concept and proposed estimated costs. She also discussed the public participation and staff's conclusions.

Yarusso asked about the alignment along businesses and what their thoughts and/or concerns were. John Mertens, Dakota County stated that they met with the large employers in the area and noted that they were generally supportive however there were some concerns from Thompson Reuters regarding security. Therefore the alignment was moved to the edge of their property.

Nyanwleh asked how many attended the public participation and also what the start and end date of the project was. Youngquist explained that all construction will depend on available funding for acquisition and development.

Nyanwleh asked isn't it important to know a start date. Youngquist explained that it is very difficult to estimate when funding may become available.

Youngquist stated that there were over 50 in attendance at the first open house in January and over 60 attended at the second open house in May.

Mertens added that the Master Plan allows them to secure land control as land becomes available.

Yarusso asked about the greenway vs. regional trail distinction. Youngquist stated that the County will develop a 30 foot corridor.

Nyanwleh reiterated that he finds it difficult to approve when a park agency requests money without a start/end date and asked why this should be approved.

Yarusso noted that this is a Master Plan describing future plans for projects and noted that there is no money involved at this time.

Wulff added that the only reason cost estimates are reported is to give us a long term idea of the magnitude of the total plan. Youngquist clarified in addition that the Metropolitan Council will not be the sole funder of this Master Plan.

Moeller stated he looks at this as a long range picture to be able to preserve the land for future development.

Nyanwleh stated he would still like to see a timeline attached to Master Plans.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks discussed the reasoning behind their master planning and the benefits that are reaped.

Wulff stated that the Met Council asks cities and counties to plan for 30 years out, including for parks, and it is helpful for long term planning on many levels.

Schmidt motioned and it was seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Require that prior to initiating development of the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Regional Trail, preliminary plans should be sent to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager (651-602-4503) at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.

Chair Johnston called for a vote and the motion carried with Nyanwleh abstaining. Nyanwleh stated his reason for abstaining is that he doesn't want to vote for a Master Plan that doesn't have a timeline attached to it.

### **Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan, Dakota County** - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave a PowerPoint presentation discussing the master plan submitted by Dakota County for the Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail as outlined in the materials provided.

Youngquist gave some background on the regional trail search corridor. She discussed its regional connections as well as local connections. She outlined four different segments of the trail along with their connections and talked about a long-term alternative alignment. She discussed the estimated costs to implement the Master Plan.

Youngquist reviewed the public planning process that included:

- Technical Advisory Group
- 4 Public Open Houses
- Dakota County Board adoption of the Master Plan
- Resolutions of support from the City of Burnsville, Lakeville, and Farmington as well as the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board
- Letter of Support from Three Rivers/Scott County Partnership

Yarusso clarified is Segment 2, the part that goes through Scott County, has a separate Master Plan. Youngquist responded that was correct.

Wulff stated that she is very happy to see this Master Plan coming forward. Making connections is very important.

Moeller clarified that the projected costs are at today's dollars. Youngquist confirmed that is correct.

Wulff stated that the freight corridor is known as 'the line that shall not be named', but it is used for parking unused rail cars. The City of Lakeville would like to see the trail developed.

Schmidt motioned and it was seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Require that prior to initiating development of the Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail, preliminary plans should be sent to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager (651-602-4503) at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.
3. Notify Dakota County that approval of the Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan applies to the preferred trail route designated in the master plan and does not constitute approval of the long-term alternative identified along the MN&S line owned by Canadian Pacific Railway.

Chair Johnston called for a vote and the motion carried with Nyanwleh abstaining for the same reasons mentioned previously.

**Amend Scope and Duration of Four Regional Park and Trail Grants to Dakota County – Tori Dupre, Senior Planner**

Dupre described a request from Dakota County to amend the scope and duration of four Regional Park and Trail grants as outlined in the materials provided.

Yarusso asked if there have been any priority changes, what are we gaining, are we losing higher priority phases, and what are we losing? He also asked if there is any change in trail mileage. Dupre referred to the graphics provided to show segments that are done. Sullivan stated that the Mississippi Regional Trail is a high priority regional trail. He noted that the 'gain' is additional funding needed for the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment. Another gain, in Rosemount, is a relationship developed with Union Pacific Railroad that wouldn't have happened otherwise. He stated that the mileage is very comparable.

Sullivan also clarified that SG2009-042 should refer to the construction of the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail, not Pine Bend. Stefferud clarified that we should strike 'Pine Bend' and insert 'Rosemount' in proposed action #1.

Yarusso asked what counter proposals would be legal, i.e., only do a time change. Sullivan stated they are trying to optimize the system growth where they can best do that. They are thinking that they are being strategic. He noted that the timeframe ties into a Federal Grant as well.

Wulff agreed and stated she would not support a proposal change at the Community Development Committee.

Nyanwleh asked if the new proposal meets the approval of residents. Sullivan noted that the changes made here have to go through a public and political process.

Schmidt motioned and it was seconded by Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council amend the following four grant agreements and authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreement amendments:

1. Amend SG2009-042, Grant Project (Section 2) to include "engineering, construction and construction administration for the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail," and to delete "construction of the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail". Also, extend the agreement term to December 31, 2017 to accommodate the time needed to construct the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment and align with the expiration date of two Federal Transportation grants for the project.
2. Amend SG2010-032, Development Project to include "engineering, construction and construction administration for the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail," and to delete "design, construction and construction administration of the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail." Also, extend the agreement term to December 31, 2017 to accommodate the time needed to construct the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment and align with the expiration date of two Federal Transportation grants for the project.

3. Amend SG2011-027, Development Project to include “engineering, construction and construction administration for the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail,” and to delete “construction and construction administration of the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail.” Also, extend the agreement term to December 31, 2017 to accommodate the time needed to construct the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment and align with the expiration date of two Federal Transportation grants for the project.
4. Amend SG2011-108, Grant Project (Section 2) to include “engineering, construction and construction administration for the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail,” and to delete “construction and construction administration of the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail.” Also, extend the agreement term to December 31, 2017 to accommodate the time needed to construct the Spring Lake Park Reserve segment and align with the expiration date of two Federal Transportation grants for the project.

Chair Johnston called for a vote and the motion carried.

**Request for Reimbursement Consideration of Five Dakota County Regional Park and Trail Projects -**  
Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre reviewed the request for future reimbursement consideration for five Regional Park and Trail projects as listed in the materials provided.

Nyanwleh asked for further explanation of Finance Strategy 6. Dupre explained the policy. Wulff added that the Legislature could take away funding, so we do not ‘obligate’ a future Council.

Schmidt motioned and it was seconded by Yarusso to recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$918,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs for the following projects:

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Park System-wide furnishings and site amenities<br>Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans            | \$43,000  |
| 2. Greenway-system wide furnishings and site enhancements<br>Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans | \$90,000  |
| 3. Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design<br>Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead                                    | \$75,000  |
| 4. Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction<br>Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan  | \$420,000 |
| 5. North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction<br>Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul            | \$290,000 |

Acknowledge 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 Johnston called for a vote and the motion carried.

**INFORMATION**

None.

**REPORTS**

**Chair:** None.



**Commissioners:** None.

**Staff:** Stefferud discussed the need to reschedule the November MPOSC meeting due to Election Day. He polled members and the consensus was that the meeting should be moved to November 12, 2013.

Moeller motioned and it was seconded by Nyanwleh to change the meeting date to November 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Moeller asked about starting later if MPOSC candidate interviews will be held after the MPOSC business meeting. He amended his motion to have a start time of 'to be determined by staff'. It was seconded by Nyanwleh. Chair Johnston called for a vote and the motion carried.

Stefferdud also reported that the MPOSC candidate application time was extended to October 15. He made it clear that if you, the incumbent, would like to re-apply it is necessary to do that. Wulff also noted that if incumbent MPOSC members had letters of recommendations from your first application, they will need to be resent.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary