

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Committee Members Present:

William Weber, Sarah Hietpas, Anthony Taylor, Rick Theisen, Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

Committee Members Absent:

Barbara Schmidt, Robert Moeller, Dean Johnston, Carrie Wasley

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Theisen called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Vice Chair Theisen asked for motion to approve the agenda of the March 3, 2015 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Weber motioned and it was seconded by Taylor. **Agenda was approved.**

Vice Chair Theisen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Weber motioned and it was seconded by Hietpas. **Minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

Invitation to interested person(s) to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.

None.

BUSINESS

(2015-xxx) Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan Amendment – Jan Youngquist, Manager

Youngquist gave a presentation on the requested amendment for the Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan to expand the park boundary as outlined in the materials provided.

Hietpas asked how the original boundaries are set. Youngquist stated that the preference is that they follow property lines. She is not sure why this one split the property line in question.

Wulff commented on the \$2.7 million and noted that this is a lot of money and stated she is concerned with funding available.

Youngquist discussed available funds in the Parks and Trails Legacy account and noted staff anticipates getting more funding July 1.

Wulff asked about other acquisitions pending. Youngquist stated that it is a first come, first serve basis. She also noted that the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund has a limit per agency of \$1.7 million.

Taylor motioned and it was seconded by Weber to approve the recommendation that the Metropolitan Council approve the Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan Amendment.

Vice Chair Theisen called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

(2015-039) Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail, Four Easements, Three Rivers Park District – Raintry Salk, Research Analyst

Salk gave a presentation on the request from Three Rivers Park District for the acquisition of four trail easements for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail as outlined in the materials provided.

It was motioned by Hietpas and seconded by Weber to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a grant of up to \$220,500 to Three Rivers Park District to acquire four trail easements for Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.
 - a. The Metropolitan Council will finance the grant through the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund, with Metropolitan Council bonds funding 75 percent of the total acquisition costs.
 - b. Three Rivers Park District will match the grant with \$73,500, or 25 percent of the total acquisition costs.
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreement including the restrictive covenant.

Vice Chair Theisen called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

(2015-040) Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Intercity Regional Trail, Two Easements, Three Rivers Park District – Raintry Salk, Research Analyst

Salk gave a presentation on the request from Three Rivers Park District for two easements for the Intercity Regional Trail as outlined in the materials provided.

Hietpas asked about the use of existing road easements and also when eminent domain used.

Kelly Grissman, Director of Planning for Three Rivers Park District responded noting that they are utilizing a lot of public right of way (ROW), however a 10 foot wide trail with buffers for safety is too much for existing ROW. She stated that eminent domain was used as they have Federal funds they do not want to lose to complete this project.

Theisen asked how much more will be necessary to finish the trail. Grissman stated there will be two more easements needed. She noted that Bloomington will eventually make improvements along American Boulevard however not in the near future.

It was motioned by Weber and seconded by Taylor to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a grant of \$85,894 to reimburse Three Rivers Park District for the costs to acquire two regional trail easements in Bloomington through condemnation for the Intercity Regional Trail.
 - a. The Metropolitan Council will finance the grant through the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund, with Metropolitan Council bonds funding 75 percent of the total acquisition costs.
 - b. Three Rivers Park District will match the grant with \$28,631, or 25 percent of the total acquisition costs.
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreement including the restrictive covenant.

Taylor asked about the design standard. Grissman stated it will be a 10 foot wide trail with a 2-3 foot wide clear zone on each side for safety.

Vice Chair Theisen called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATION

2015 State Bond Request for Unfunded Portion of the 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

Stefferud gave a presentation on the 2015 State Bond request for the unfunded portion of the 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program as outlined in the materials provided.

Weber asked if this is because of the budget surplus. Stefferud noted that this request came in late January and the surplus was just announced last week.

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Youngquist gave an update on the reappointments of MPOSC members. She noted that the Metro Council Members should be sworn in next week and then the focus will be on filling vacancies and reappointments to the Council's various commissions/committees.

ADJOURNMENT

4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary