

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION**

Thursday, January 6, 2022

**Committee Members Present:** Assata Brown, Cecily Harris, Monica Dillenburg, Robert Moeller, Tony Yarusso, Cana Yang, Jeremy Peichel, Todd Kemery, Anthony Taylor and Susan Vento, liaison to the Council

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Recording Secretary did a roll call for a quorum.

Present – 9

Absent – 0

With a quorum being present via WebEx, Commission Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Chair Yarusso asked for a consensus to approve the January 6, 2022, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission agenda. The agenda was approved by consensus.

Next, Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the December 2, 2021 minutes. Kemery motioned, and it was seconded by Dillenburg to approve the December 2, 2021 minutes of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting.

The Recording Secretary issued a roll call vote.

Aye – 9

Nay – 0

Abstention – 0

**The motion was approved.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION**

Chair Yarusso stated that no one pre-registered to speak today. As a reminder, if you wish to offer public comment at a virtual meeting, please pre-register by emailing [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us). You may also send us your comments by email.

**BUSINESS**

2022-2, North Creek Greenway Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (Rockport), Dakota County

Jessica Lee, Senior Planner, presented the staff report to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

A motion was made by Kemery and seconded by Brown to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

approve a grant of up to \$217,125 to Dakota County to acquire the 1.17- acre Rockport property, Outlot C, located at Pilot Knob Road and 157th Street West in Apple Valley, for the North Creek Greenway Regional Trail.

Aye – 9

Nay – 0  
Abstention – 0

**The motion was approved.**

Chair Tony Yarusso asked a clarifying question about the funding source for this request. Ms. Lee responded that Council staff are using up previous years' funding and this grant would use a mix of old funds from Parks and Trails Legacy Fund and Council funds. Al Singer noted that the parcel was incorrectly referred to as Outlot C in the staff report posted for MPOSC, and the correct name is Outlot B. The proposed action was amended to reflect this correction.

## **INFORMATION**

Regional Parks Bonding Program, Fiscal Year 2023 Projects and Equity Highlights, Part 2 of 2 Jessica Lee, Senior Planner, presented the staff report to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

### Scott County, Cedar Lake Farm – Alysa Delgado Misfeldt

Kemery commented on the tent pads and accessibility, commends Scott County's foresight.

### Bloomington, Hyland-Bush-Anderson - Renae Clark

Dillenburg requested clarification on the change and placement of the play structures.

Ms. Clark described the 3 play structures.

Kemery asked if the play areas are ADA compliant.

Ms. Clark explained the plans to have portions of the play structures include increased accessibility. Some access is limited due to grass and other surfaces.

### Carver County, Lake Waconia - Marty Walsh

Harris inquired about the perspective of the proposed visitors center in the design rendering.

Mr. Walsh described that the perspective was from the water, with the foreground dock leading up to the building and an elevated overlook.

### Dakota County, Spring Lake Park Reserve - Jeff Bransford

Taylor requested more information on Dakota County's efforts to interpret the historical-cultural significance of this site.

Mr. Bransford explained the efforts to develop interpretive plans with stories, history, and ecology all tied together. He said he'd share the interpretive plans with the Commissioners.

### Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, 5 projects - Adam Arvidson

No questions

After the information item presentation Chair Yarusso asked a procedural question regarding the final allocation amounts, how the Commission will be informed of these final projects, and the timing of budget amendment. Ms. Lee estimated that a budget amendment will be done sometime in July 2022. Mr. Mullin offered to provide more information to the Chair offline.

## **REPORTS**

**Chair:**

**Commissioners:** Peichel updated the group regarding his role as a member of the Legislative Citizen Commission of Minnesota's Resources, and informed the group of future funding rounds/allocation meetings.

**Staff:** Mullin explained the Council's short term plans to continue hosting remote meetings but hopes to conduct a Bdote Tour this summer, as Covid protocols allow.

**Council Liaison:** Council Member Susan Vento thanked all the Agencies for their Bonding presentations and the Commissioners for their efforts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Michele Wenner  
Recording Secretary