

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Sarah Hietpas

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 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. Moeller motioned and it was seconded by Theisen to approve the agenda. The **Agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. Kemery motioned and it was seconded by Theisen to approve the minutes. The **Minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

Catherine Zimmer, Executive Director Women Observing Wildlife Minnesota made comments, for the benefit of new members, on the nature based parks system and referenced sections of the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Legacy Amendment. She shared her concern that too much of our park system is being developed and not left in its natural state.

INFORMATION

New Committee Member Welcome, Introductions, and Orientation - Emmett Mullin, Manager; Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst; Deb Jensen, Senior Finance Planner

Mullin asked each of the Commission members and staff to introduce themselves.

Youngquist gave a presentation on the history and structure of the regional park system and the role of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.

Jensen shared the range of regional parks funding including State and Regional Bonding, Environmental Natural Resource Trust Fund, Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, as well as Operations and Maintenance Funds.

Kemery asked a question about if all of these funds were distributed and no funding was available for the time being, would the Commission still meet? Jensen stated that they would continue to meet as there is planning and research work as well as other potential Commission business.

Council Action on Grant Amendments, Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail, Three Rivers Park District and Point Douglas Regional Trail, Washington County - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner

Dupre provided an update on two grant amendments that the Council took action on that did not come to MPOSC first as there was no January meeting and both of these items were time-sensitive. Both amendments are outlined in the materials provided.

Theisen clarified the new total amounts of the current grant projects.

Andreason asked if Commission members are allowed access to grant agreements and proposals. Dupre stated that summaries are shared with the Commission. Mullin added that phone numbers are listed on the staff reports and if there is ever a question, members are encouraged to call staff for clarification.

BUSINESS

2017-40, Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan, Carver County - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist gave a presentation on the Master Plan for Lake Waconia Regional Park outlining the development of the Regional Park as well as Coney Island (acquired in 2016) as described in the materials provided. She noted that there is a math error in the report that will be corrected before going to the Community Development Committee.

Moeller discussed accessibility after hours on the island. Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks stated that there will be an ordinance in place limiting access to hours of operation. There will be some policing of the island as well as a need to permit certain island activities.

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

1. Approve the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan.
2. Require that prior to initiating development within the main portion of the regional park, Carver County must send preliminary plans to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager at Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.
3. Inform Carver County that Metropolitan Council Environmental Services has a proposed project scheduled for 2018 to replace Forcemain Interceptor 7508 that travels through the regional park property.

Kemery asked if there would be a caretaker on the island for security. Walsh stated no, not at this time.

Kemery discussed his excitement with ADA considerations within the plan. He asked about the play area discussed and if it is already in place. Walsh stated it will be developed and will be ADA accessible.

Kemery asked about transportation to the island. Walsh stated there will be a ferry service provided, which may be a public/private partnership and there may be rentals (i.e., boats, kayaks, etc.). He noted that people may also use their own watercrafts.

Chair Yarusso asked how the Regional Parks Policy Plan deals with rentals and concessions. Youngquist stated that it is fine as long as it serves visitors to the Regional Park.

Chair Yarusso asked about the current event center – how it will be used, etc. Walsh stated that the event center has been there for years (it is a ballroom facility). It continues to serve large events, e.g., weddings. The facility seats up to 1,000 people and will continue in the current use until it may be converted to something else.

Andreason stated that she liked the community engagement and asked what future engagement will be conducted? Walsh stated that if a future plan amendment is done, the community will be engaged at that time.

Taylor asked if there were any dissenting voices. Walsh said there were not.

Chair Yarusso stated he is concerned with the possible change in the use of the event center and asked how that would be brought to this committee for funding. Youngquist stated that it would need to serve a public service/park service and then there would be a 'lens' to look at public use of bonding.

Taylor asked what is the current use of the ballroom. Walsh noted that it is operated as a concession in the current interim use. It will continue in this capacity until such time that a new plan is developed.

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

Appointment of Todd Kemery as Vice-Chair to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission for 2017 – Tony Yarusso, Chair

Chair Yarusso noted that in accordance with the terms of the MPOSC bylaws and after speaking with staff and considering the past Chair's recommendation (Chair Johnston), he would like to appoint Todd Kemery as Vice-Chair subject to approval of the Commission.

Chair Yarusso made a motion to propose that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approve the appointment of Todd Kemery as the Commission's Vice-Chair for 2017. It was seconded by Moeller.

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

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: Moeller discussed The Landing and noted that he feels it is an ineffective name. He asked if the Commission has any ability to give input on the name. He feels it is a wonderful village that could do better with a different, more descriptive name. Mullin stated that naming of facilities is done at the agency level and suggested bringing it up with Three Rivers Park District. Wulff noted that Jonathan Vlaming from Three Rivers Park District was present and perhaps they could have a conversation after the meeting.

Staff: Mullin noted that the November 2016 State Sales Tax Forecast for the Parks & Trails Legacy Fund was adjusted downward so agency projects will need to be adjusted accordingly. The February 2017 Forecast will be coming out in early March and may necessitate additional project adjustments.

Mullin mentioned that the Minneapolis Loppet was held the weekend earlier and was a resounding success at Theodore Wirth Regional Park. He acknowledged Anthony Taylor's good work.

ADJOURNMENT

5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary