

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Dean Johnston, Rick Theisen, Tony Yarusso, William Weber, Robert Moeller, Sarah Hietpas, Carrie Wasley

Committee Members Absent:

Barbara Schmidt, Anthony Taylor, Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Johnston called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Moeller, seconded by Hietpas to approve the agenda of the August 5, 2014 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Weber, seconded by Theisen to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2014 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

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

Laura Hedlund, a resident from Eagan spoke to and passed out materials regarding food in open spaces and parks as an equity and public health issue. She suggested planting fruit trees and also vegetables in our regional parks. She also discussed how this will affect climate change. She asked if there was a place for this suggestion in the Regional Parks Policy Plan. Johnston stated that this will be noted in the minutes and asked staff to take a look at it for further discussion and possible follow-up.

BUSINESS

Establish Public Hearing Date – 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst, and Raintry Salk, Senior Parks Researcher

Youngquist stated staff is very happy to be presenting the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP) which is now ready for the Commission to recommend for a public hearing date and open up the public comment period. She reviewed what went into the development of this plan and stated that she and Salk wanted to thank the Commission for all of their input and hard work that was put into the development of this plan. She noted that there was some minor changes (word-smithing) done by the Council's Communications Department. There was also a minor adjustment to the proposed Lake Independence extension regional trail search corridor which will include a 2 mile extension added down to Carver County. Language in the plan was also clarified regarding the equity lens.

Salk reviewed work done by a workgroup at the Council in the development of a Council-wide equity lens. Most notably the draft plan now contains language on what an equity lens is. She stated that the draft policy plan also has detail on plan development of that equity lens and the timeframe it is to be developed. She discussed the difference between the equity lens used in the Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Council's Thrive MSP 2040 plan.

Salk next reviewed the schedule moving forward and statute requirements regarding the public hearing process.

Weber stated that last winter the Commission discussed the idea of integrating the policy plans, e.g., parks, transportation, etc. He asked if this has occurred. Youngquist responded that it has and discussed information and references contained in the RPPP.

Weber noted that he finds all of the Council's documents online hard to read. He feels that the Sans Serif font used is hard to read and columns are too wide. He asked that the Communications Department think about this. Youngquist stated staff will share this information, however doesn't feel the Sans Serif font will be changed. She noted that the final draft will be professionally laid out with narrower columns.

Moeller thanked staff for adding the extension to the Lake Independence regional trail search corridor.

Moeller made the motion and it was seconded by Yarusso to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* for public comment;
- Authorize a public hearing to be conducted regarding the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* at 5:00 p.m. on October 20, 2014 as part of the Community Development Committee meeting;
- Keep the public record open until 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2014; and
- Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* for public comment under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings.

Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

INFORMATION

2013 Regional Parks System Use Estimate - Rainry Salk, Senior Parks Researcher

Salk gave a presentation on the 2013 Regional Parks System use estimates. She gave background on why and how these estimates have been done since 1995 and how the results are used. Report was included in the materials provided.

Distributing State Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations for Metropolitan Regional Parks System Operations and Maintenance - Arne Stefferud, Manager

Stefferdud gave a presentation on the distribution of operation and maintenance (O&M) funds by the Metropolitan Council as required by state law. He reviewed the formula for determining what the allocations will be as outlined in the materials provided.

Yarusso asked if heading on page 6 should say FY15? Stefferud stated that was a typo and noted it will be corrected.

Moeller asked about other funding sources. Stefferud explained it includes property taxes and user fees.

Theisen asked about grants that he's heard of that are used to finance operations and maintenance of parks. Stefferud stated that yes; there can be other non property tax revenues that an agency receives. He noted that they don't report what their revenue sources are, they report what was expended.

Wasley pointed out that Como Zoo does not have user fees. Stefferud agreed and pointed out that they do have other sources of revenue including donation boxes.

Laura Hedlund, Eagan resident asked about the .4 calculation for park reserves. Stefferud explained it is to make the acreage comparable between a regional park and a park reserve in regards to the

probable costs of operating and maintaining it. Because 80% of a park reserve is not developed with amenities that need to be maintained, the law requires us to take that acreage and multiply it by .4 so that it is comparable from an O&M standpoint of maintaining a regional park.

REPORTS

Chair: Johnston asked if Commission Members are expected to attend the public hearing or would it be helpful for members to attend. Stefferud stated members are welcome to attend. He noted that there will be a summation of all comments and an analysis with recommendations will be brought back to this commission.

Commissioners: Weber commented on the Dakota Rail Trail that he rode this past weekend and noted that it was an impressive trail.

Yarusso stated that the City of White Bear Lake received a \$100,000 grant for local trail connections.

Yarusso stated that he is now living in a new district. Stefferud stated he will check into his ability to continue until a replacement can be found.

Staff: Stefferud stated the next meeting will be at Keller Regional Park with a tour at 3pm and a business meeting at 4:30pm at the Keller Golf Course Clubhouse. Information will be sent out one week prior.

Stefferud noted that the November 4, 2014 MPOSC Meeting is currently scheduled on Election Day and therefore needs to be changed. He discussed other possibilities and the Commission preferred Monday, November 10, 2014.

Next meeting will be September 2, 2014 at Keller Regional Park with a tour beginning at 3pm and a business meeting beginning at 4:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT

4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary