

Minutes of the

JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Monday, April 7, 2014

Committee Members Present: Cunningham, Chávez, Commers, Elkins, Kramer, Munt, Rummel, Wulff, Hietpas, Johnston, Moeller, Schmidt, Taylor, Theisen, Wasley

Committee Members Absent: Yarusso

Committee Members Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Cunningham called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

Lynnea Atlas Ingebretson, member of the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee, requested to speak before the Community Development Committee and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. She spoke of the four pillars of a strong regional park system, which includes equity beyond infrastructure, accommodating people to the outdoors, and she spoke of the "I can" programs which provide assistance in learning about our parks and activities.

BUSINESS

None

INFORMATION

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan discussion on Strengthening Equity in the Regional Parks System

Planning Analyst Jan Youngquist and Senior Parks Research Raintry Salk facilitated a discussion of the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. They presented a PowerPoint with an overview and policy themed questions for the joint committees.

1. Comprehensive policy approaches, using an Equity Analysis toolkit to evaluate investments, policy, practices, and decision making. Committee members asked if we are adopting this policy or is this a guide or a model to used in planning? Staff responded this is just a toolkit to strengthen equity. Another member inquired if implementing agencies are using this toolkit and staff responded it is currently used internally. Members supported staff toolkit, with concerns that equity goes both directions. The focus should be on all parks not just RCAP's.
2. Funding and investments – members discussed operating and maintenance funds, and their pass-throughs, and capital improvements funds. Members questioned the source of funding, and percentages funded by the Met Council. Staff explained the bonding sources, the Parks & Trails Legacy

funding. The members supported ideas for grant programs addressing equity, using a percentage of PTLF to connect people to the outdoors, prioritize grant funding to activities with the largest impact, and encourage agencies to consider equity in Met Council funded projects. The members questioned their authority to adopt these ideas, and staff assured them nothing in the statutes prevents them.

3. Planning and design

1. Create a new RP system component that enables experimentation to try new things that may attract diverse users
2. Include “bridging facility” or similar in definition of Special Recreation Features
3. Create new classification system for regional park system to include park design elements that accommodate changing recreational preferences and diverse users (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum)



Members supported the idea of a spectrum.

4. Community engagement

1. Require agencies to conduct community engagement with historically underrepresented communities during the development of a Regional Park Master Plan
2. Provide community engagement assistance to park agencies to engage historically underrepresented communities

The Committee chair agrees with Community engagement, questioned the cost of Met Council’s assistance and the expertise of the developers.

5. Convening and information

Provide regional-level research related to changing recreational preferences and demographics

- Expand to include information related to social class, educational status, age cohorts, disability status, etc.

Conduct park visitor survey on a more consistent basis

- More than once a decade
- Create a MC funded regional park system ambassador program
- Bringing parks to people/people to parks

Invest in the development of an integrated web application with an activity/park finder feature

Conduct quarterly “best practices” meetings with agencies

Members supported all the information gathering ideas, staff responded a budget is needed for regional level research, visitors’ surveys, ambassador programs, park finders, to respond to changing preferences.

Chair Cunningham thanked MPSOC Chair Dean Johnston and the MPSOC members, and all the participants of the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary