

## Minutes of the

### MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

#### Committee Members Present:

Dean Johnston, Robert Moeller, Rick Theisen, Anthony Taylor, and Wendy Wulff, Council Liaison

**Committee Members Absent:** Todd Kemery, Sarah Hietpas, Bill Weber, Rachel Gillespie, and Michael Kopp

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnston called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

There was not a quorum present for the approval of the agenda or the June 7, 2016 minutes.

#### PUBLIC INVITATION

Chair Johnston asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak on matters not on the agenda. No one came forward.

#### INFORMATION

**First Tier Summer Initiatives** - Mandy Whiteside, Director of Marketing and Denis Hahn, Director of Outdoor Education, Three Rivers Park District

Whiteside and Hahn gave a PowerPoint presentation and discussed 2016 Strategies

- Explorer Camps
- Parks on the Go
- Bike Fleet
- Park Partners
- Pocket Park Expansion
- Outdoor Education / Recreation Outreach programming
- Gauge Success and Impact
- Highlights by Communities

Wulff commented small communities, population <4500, like Elko/New Market do not have parks staff, and they rely on Three Rivers Park District. Equity is reaching to outer suburbs not just the inner suburbs. It's an important partnership.

Johnston commented the tour was amazing, very impressed with the complexity of building such a high quality trail through a developed, urban area.

Moeller stated he was excited about the programs and had three points to discuss. (1) Goals, reaching a more diverse group. He commented that the pictures of people in the PowerPoint slides were white. (2) He questioned the diversity of the Van program – how many drivers of color?

Whiteside responded some drivers are Hmong, which was very advantageous during the Hmong festival.

Moeller (3) suggested a Voyager Outward Bound program or an urban challenge program.

## **BUSINESS**

### **(2016-133) Sugar Hills Regional Trail Master Plan and Reimbursement Consideration, Anoka County** – Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst

Youngquist presented the report and a PowerPoint to MPOSC outlining the submission from Anoka County of a master plan for the Sugar Hills Regional Trail and their request for the Council to consider reimbursing the County up to \$100,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the costs associated with construction of the trail along CSAH 24 and CSAH 9 in St. Francis.

Wulff asked about the resolutions of support from St Francis and Nowthen, but not from Oak Grove? Youngquist stated that Oak Grove was making a point. While there is only a tiny segment of the trail in Oak Grove, they were not pleased with the overall development cost for the trail.

Without a quorum present, Chair Johnston asked for a consensus of the four committee members to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Sugar Hills Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$100,000 from its share of a future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program for costs associated with trail construction within the project area shown in Attachment 1.
3. Inform Anoka County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

All members present were in favor of this recommendation.

### **(2016-135) Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Doehling), Dakota County** – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen presented the report and a PowerPoint to MPOSC outlining the request from Dakota County for a park acquisition opportunity fund grant for Lebanon Hills Regional Park for the Doehling parcel.

Without a quorum present, Chair Johnston asked for a consensus of the four committee members to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$350,283 to Dakota County to acquire the Doehling parcel at 2835 120<sup>th</sup> Street West for Lebanon Hills Regional Park; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

All members present were in favor of this recommendation.

### **(2016-134) Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve (Burger), Dakota County** – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen presented the report and a PowerPoint outlining the request from Dakota County for a park acquisition opportunity fund grant for Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve for the Burger parcel.

Jensen asked for feedback from MPSOC members and implementing agencies on the new format of information in the report.

There were no questions or comments.

Without a quorum present, Chair Johnston asked for a consensus of the four committee members to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$733,064 to Dakota County to acquire the Burger parcel at 13548 Fischer Avenue for Spring Lake Park Reserve; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

All members present were in favor of this recommendation.

**(2016-136) Annual Metropolitan Regional Parks Operations and Maintenance Allocation** – Deb Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen presented the annual Metropolitan Regional Parks Operations and Maintenance Allocation to MPOSC. She mentioned that we were organizing a convening with the implementing agencies in August to further examine eligible vs non-eligible expenditures, drafting procedures, and changing process deadlines.

Chair Johnston asked if changes will occur in 2017. Mullin responded that the Council staff is working with the implementing agencies to make improvements to this process as well as improvements to the documented expenses that the implementing agencies submit. Additionally, today's presentation covered the operations and maintenance requests, as submitted by the 10 agencies. The actual operation and maintenance allocation will be presented at the August MPOSC meeting.

Johnston stated he liked the new format, contains more information and is a more consistent approach.

Without a quorum present, Chair Johnson asked for a consensus of the four committee members to recommend that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission report to the Metropolitan Council the requests from the ten Regional parks Implementing Agencies for state fiscal year 2017 operation and maintenance funds.

All members present were in favor of this recommendation.

## REPORTS

**Chair** – None.

**Commissioners** – None.

**Staff** – Mullin, no news on special session. He noted that he did present our 2017 Metropolitan Regional Parks request to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources for \$2.4 million for acquisitions, and he reported that the Commission seemed receptive. They will be deliberating on allocations next week and staff remain hopeful that the Council will receive funding. Mullin stated Chair Torkelson is supportive of the request and remains hopeful for a special session.

Wulff commented on the lack of a quorum. Suggests polling commissioners. Are there barriers, possible replacements? Mullin stated he will follow-up with MPOSC members and noted that members were polled and we thought that we did have a quorum.

Mullins thanked hosts for room & tour.

## ADJOURNMENT

5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner, for Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary