

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tony Yarusso, Mike Kopp, Bob Moeller, Todd Kemery, Margie Andreason, Rick Theisen, Catherine Fleming, Sarah Hietpas, Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent:

Anthony Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the meeting of the Council's Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the May 1, 2018 Agenda. Theisen motioned, and it was seconded by Andreason to approve the agenda. The **Agenda was approved.**

Chair Yarusso asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Kopp. The **Minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

BUSINESS

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, Master Plan Amendment, Anoka County – Jake Reilly, Local Planning Assistance

Reilly gave a presentation on the request from Anoka County to amend the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Theisen asked what lottery in lieu of funds relate to. Mullin stated that this relates to operations and maintenance funding received from the state (from lottery funds).

It was motioned by Moeller and seconded by Kopp to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan Amendment.

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

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park: Bde Maka Ska – Harriet Master Plan, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Jake Reilly, Local Planning Assistance

Reilly gave a presentation on the request from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to approve a master plan amendment for Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park: Bde Maka Ska - Harriet as outlined in the materials provided.

Andreason recognized MPRB's efforts to be equitable and inclusive in their planning.

Adam Arvidson, Minneapolis Parks commented that the Chain of Lakes are difficult to plan due to history and ecology butting heads. Attempts were made in the past, but the MPRB did not complete past planning efforts due to

disagreements surrounding planning. He discussed the future planning efforts as well on other parts of this unit.

Fleming asked if there are any statistics for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Arvidson was not there for the CAC meetings and those staff are no longer with the agency. He noted that they do not track the racial make up of the CAC as it becomes a deterrent for people to participate. He stated that the CAC was made up of individuals city wide, and not around the regional park to encourage a wider array of experiences and perspectives. He feels this approach was a positive change as it was more representative of the region as a whole. Arvidson added regarding sub-committees, he did not meet with them but knows there were diversity of races and ethnicities represented. Regarding the website and social media, these tools were used to promote meetings, open houses, and information about the planning effort. He noted that the name change rose out of the CAC and discussed the reasons for that change.

Kemery asked about focus area #6 regarding the boat launch relocation. Arvidson stated it will be in the northeast bay area of Bde Maka Ska. There is a sailing school and public boat launch.

Kemery asked about moving the playground (page 8 of the staff report) –where will it be located and will it be all accessible? Arvidson stated it will be moved from current location but will still be in this vicinity. The accessible playground is due to an addition to another playground on the south area.

Kemery discussed beach access and noted that there is a new type of matting that can be rolled up and moved. Arvidson discussed how design goals are met by what is there now. He noted that when the 3rd access point is developed they can look at this type of equipment and stated he appreciated the input.

Andreason asked how winter has been considered in this plan. Arvidson stated he is not sure of the depth of planning done for winter activities and discussed some of the current uses in the winter.

It was motioned by Hietpas and seconded by Andreason to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park: Bde Maka Ska – Harriet Master Plan.

Moeller gave his support and appreciation for the work of this plan and also the depth of discussion on engagement. Chair Yarusso commented on the engagement done as well and thanked the MPRB for this.

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

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan, Dakota County – Lisa Barajas, Local Planning Assistance

Barajas gave a presentation on the request from Dakota County for a master plan update for Lake Byllesby Regional Park as outlined in the materials provided.

Kemery asked if the non-motorized boat launch was similar to a canoe/kayak launch. Lil Latham, Dakota County Parks stated that it was.

Kemery discussed a floating platform that makes canoes/kayaks accessible. Also, accessible picnic tables. He offered to be an informational resource in these areas. Latham thanked Commissioner Kemery and stated that design will begin this year.

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

1. Approve the Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan.
2. Approve master plan boundary adjustments to reflect the removal of three parcels and the addition of four parcels as shown in Figures 1 and 2.
3. Require that Dakota County submit estimated land acquisition costs that were not quantified in this master plan as an amendment to the master plan for Metropolitan Council review and approval prior to seeking grants for acquisition of applicable parcels.

Moeller commended Dakota County on a job well done and asked how participation with an equity focus was done. Latham discussed efforts for engagement at schools and neighborhood picnics. She stated they also did a parallel process done with under represented groups and applied some of these findings as well. Moeller suggested more information be added to the Master Plan that talks about what they are doing to address equity. Latham discussed what they have heard and how they are incorporating that into this park.

Andreason asked about conflicts and mitigation measures (noted on page 20 of the staff report). Latham stated many were from adjacent property owners and discussed how they worked with these folks.

Chair Yarusso discussed skjoring and suggested expanding this.

Theisen asked if the lake is heavily used by motorized boats. Latham noted the access is for the Cannon River. The Lake is heavily used by motorized boats. There are a limited number of parking spaces to help limit the number of boats launched.

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

Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant West Mississippi Regional Trail (Dahlheimer), Three Rivers Park District – Deb Jenson, Senior Parks Finance Planner

Jensen gave a presentation on the acquisition grant request from Three Rivers Park District for West Mississippi Regional Trail as outlined in the materials provided.

It was motioned by Theisen and seconded by Kemery to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$431,147 to Three Rivers Park District to acquire the Dahlheimer parcel at 15590 Dayton River Road in the City of Dayton, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail;
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council;
3. Consider reimbursing Three Rivers Park District for up to \$143,716 from its share of a future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program for the costs associated with the Dahlheimer acquisition; and
4. Inform Three Rivers Park District that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that future reimbursement will be granted and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park to reimbursement.

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

INFORMATION

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update, Parks Finance Policy – Emmett Mullin, Manager (Regional Parks and Natural Resources), and Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (Regional Policy and Research)

Mullin and Marckel discussed the finance portion of the Regional Parks Policy Plan outlined in the materials provided. They also discussed a meeting with the implementing agencies that was held on 4/9/18, public engagement, and future timelines of the process.

Mullin reviewed the 8 strategies outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Yarusso referred to strategy 5 and asked how equity grant programs will be funded. Mullin responded they will be funded with regional bonds.

Moeller referred to strategy 3 and asked if the Legislature is taking away some powers of the Metropolitan Council. Mullin stated, not exactly. The Legislature feels that local control is important to recognize when choosing projects to fund.

Moeller commented that he is frustrated with removing the requirement to establish a 'minimum % of PTLF to connect people to the outdoors'. Mullin noted that the implementing agencies are very committed to connecting people to the outdoors.

Chair Yarusso referred to strategy 7 and asked if this strategy means trail corridors that use transit will be required to retain recreational use for an additional 10 years (if already existing). Wulff clarified the trail life begins at the time it is first developed and open to the public.

Fleming asked if there are any prohibitions to accepting funding and discussed looking at philanthropic avenues. Mullin discussed implementing agencies usually are involved with accepting this type of funding. Wulff discussed past Regional Parks Foundation that experimented with donations and stated there was not enough donors. She noted that the individual agencies do receive individual donations – both monetary and also land.

Marckel discussed the community engagement work that has been conducted during this planning effort.

Fleming asked how many people of color have been engaged. Markel replied that they do not have a total number but discussed what they look for when doing community engagement.

Claudia Fuentes, Communications Outreach Coordinated stated that there were 67 persons of color in the 6 focus groups held, representing about 80% persons of color.

Fleming asked about leadership groups. Marckel stated they are still summarizing data in a report that will be made available when complete.

Mullin discussed the upcoming schedule and public hearing process.

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Mullin discussed the upcoming Parks and Trails Legacy Celebrations:

5/11 in Bloomington, MN (at the Normandale Lake Bandshell)

5/19 in Rochester, MN (at 125 LIVE)

6/2 in Park Rapids, MN (at Itasca State Park)

6/16 in Fergus Falls, MN (at Prairie Wetland Environmental Learning Center)

Mullin noted that John Vondelinde, Anoka County Parks Director retired last Friday and that Jeff Perry will be the new Parks Director.

Mullin thanked Lisa Barajas, Manager Local Planning Assistance and her staff for their help while the Parks Department is short-staffed.

Moeller asked about summer park tours. Mullin responded that there will be a least 2 and noted he is looking at dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary