

Minutes

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: April 6, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

Chair, Tony Yarusso,
at large

Monica Dillenburg, District A

Robert Moeller, District B

Cana Yang, District C

Tess Bouska, District D

Vacant, District E

Cecily Harris, District F

Anthony Taylor, District G

Vacant, District H

Susan Vento, Council Liaison

= present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Yarusso called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order.

Agenda Approved

Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda so it was approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Moeller, seconded by Dillenburg to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2023 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. **Motion carried.**

Public Invitation

No one wished to speak.

Business

None.

Information

1. 2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update: Regional Parks and Trails System Vision, Mission, and Values

Parks staff made a short presentation on the Regional Development Guide and Policy Plan project, as outlined in the materials provided, prior to breaking into small groups to discuss the Regional Parks and Trails System Vision, Mission and Values.

After meeting in small groups, the Commission came back together to discuss each of the three areas – Mission, Values, and Vision – and what those terms mean to the regional park system. They also discussed ideas for telling a more compelling story about why the regional parks system is vital to our region. There was a lot of support for creating something short and memorable.

Jonathan Vlaming, Three Rivers Park District spoke to the relationship the agencies have with the Metropolitan Council and how the Council can work to help the agencies with things like research, better integration, and funding. He stated that being a regulatory body doesn't work well for supporting the agencies.

Taylor responded that he disagrees. He believes we need to build a system where users can move seamlessly from one area of the region to another regardless of which agency the park resides within.

Chair Yarusso discussed the responsibilities of the Council versus that of the agencies, for example, the agencies are responsible for the operational aspect of the system, so strategies, tactical plans and operational policies are their responsibility. The Council does have some responsibilities that intersect at this level, so it is important that all parties work together on how the system operates.

Moeller shared that he hears that Vlaming believes that the Met Council's strategic plan should be more about what the Council can/should do and less about giving direction to the agencies.

Vento discussed the importance of building relationships with the agencies on our shared priorities.

Reports

1. Chair

Chair Yarusso noted that the Commission still has two vacancies to fill in District E and District H.

2. Committee Members

Dillenburg discussed how our parks system visits exceed that of Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon National Parks combined.

3. Council Liaison

None.

4. Staff

Mullin gave a brief report on the Legislative Session status, and how we're coming to the end.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting of April 6, 2023.

Approved this 4th day of May, 2023.

Council Contact:

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