

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: July 25, 2007

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2007-250) Change in scope of grant SG-06-106 to include funding for trail project in Como Regional Park and request for reimbursement consideration in future regional parks CIP for portion of trail project funding, City of St. Paul

INTRODUCTION

In 2006, the Metropolitan Council granted the City of St. Paul \$375,000 from its 2006-07 regional parks capital improvement program to provide a match to a \$697,600 TEA-21 grant to reconstruct trails in Como Regional Park (Grant SG-06-108). An additional \$296,000 is needed beyond the \$375,000 to fully fund the project based on bids received by the City.

The City of St. Paul has submitted a request for the Metropolitan Council to:

- 1) Amend grant SG-06-106 originally intended to partially reimburse the City for trail development along East Lakeshore Drive in Como Regional Park to allow up to \$147,202.81 of that \$213,000 grant to be used for partially matching the \$697,600 TEA-21 grant for the trail project in Como Regional Park.
- 2) Consider reimbursing the City up to 148,797.16 in the 2008-09 regional parks capital improvement program for partially financing the match to the \$697,600 TEA-21 grant for the trail project in Como Regional Park. (See **Attachment 1**, a letter from Jody Martinez and **Attachment 2**, Map of Como Regional Park).

This memorandum contains a review of these requests under applicable terms in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and recommends their approval.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 authorizes the “Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the [*Regional Recreation Open Space*] Policy Plan”.

Reimbursement and change in grant scope analysis

On July 12, 2006 the Metropolitan Council authorized a \$375,000 grant to the City of St. Paul from its 2006-07 regional parks CIP provide a match to a \$697,600 TEA-21 grant to design and reconstruct 3.3 miles of existing trail and build 2 miles of new trail in Como Regional Park, plus construct benches/seating areas, install bicycle racks and install landscaping (Grant SG-2006-108).

The City has awarded a bid to begin work under grant SG-2006-108 but also needs an additional \$296,000 to completely fund the project at a total cost of \$1,368,600. In order to finance the additional \$296,000 the City proposes to use \$147,202.81 remaining in another grant (Grant SG-2006-106) plus finance the remaining \$148,797.19 with its own funds. The City wants the Metropolitan Council to consider reimbursing the \$148,797.19 in the 2008-09 regional parks CIP as part of the City's allocation. Following is a table that illustrates total costs of \$1,368,600 and revenue sources for this project.

Total Costs and Revenue Sources for Como Regional Park Trail Project

Costs

Estimated costs to rehabilitate 3.3 miles of existing trails and build 2 miles of new trails in Como Regional Park.

Costs based on construction bids	\$	1,368,600
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Revenues

Federal TEA-21 grant	\$	697,600
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Metro Council grant SG-2006-108, which expires December 31, 2009	\$	375,000
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Portion of Metro Council grant SG-2006-106 by changing scope of grant to include this project	\$	147,202.81
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<u>Funding Gap</u> to be initially financed by City of St. Paul on cash flow basis. This is the amount City requests to be eligible for reimbursement consideration by the Metropolitan Council in the 2008-09 Regional Parks CIP	\$	148,797.19
Total	\$	1,368,600

If the Metropolitan Council approves this reimbursement, the City intends to request the \$148,797.19 as part of its allocation for the 2008-09 Regional Parks CIP by reducing the amount it submitted in a preliminary request for redevelopment of the Como Regional Park swimming facility. A final version of the City's request for the 2008-09 regional parks CIP is due on August 15.

Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Strategy 2(f): Reimbursement

Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan, that all information required for a development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project and that the Council approves the project.

This reimbursement consideration request is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost of this project are consistent with the development master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council on August 13, 1981 (Referral No.9213-3) and amendments to that master plan approved on June 28, 1984 (Referral No. 9213-4).
2. Enough information has been submitted in this request regarding what would be financed with a Council grant to meet the requirements of Strategy 2(f) which are shown in **Attachment 1**.
3. The City of St. Paul is requesting Metropolitan Council approval of the project prior to undertaking it. It will begin work on the project using funds from Grant SG-2006-108 but won't use City funds until after the Metropolitan Council has considered this request.

In regard to changing the scope of grant SG-2006-106 the Metropolitan Council approved this \$213,000 grant on July 12, 2006. This grant was intended to partially reimburse the City for redeveloping 0.7 miles of East Lakeshore Drive in Como Regional Park including roadway, separated pedestrian and bicycle trails, lighting, landscaping and drainage. The City would like to use \$147,202.81 remaining in this grant to partially finance the trail redevelopment project also located in Como Regional Park described above. In order to consider this request for a change in scope of this grant Section 6.06 of the grant agreement states in part:

6.06 Changes in the Development Project. If the Grantee [City of St. Paul], for any reason, determines that the Development Project or any portion of it should not be undertaken, or that there should be a change in the scope of the Development Project or any portion of it, the Grantee shall submit to the Council's Regional Administrator a statement describing the situation and giving the reasons for the Grantee's determination. The Grantee may, simultaneously with the submission of the statement or within a reasonable time thereafter, recommend alternative projects, activities, uses, expenditures or allocation of grant funds.

... If the Regional Administrator determines that the Grantee's recommendations may not be immediately approved according to criteria established by the Council, the Grantee and the Council may execute a written amendment to this agreement only as provided in paragraph 6.07 of this article, following appropriate authorization by the Council and the Grantee.

... In determining whether to approve the Grantee's recommendations, the Council shall give full regard to legislative determinations concerning development funding and to the general position that the total grant award herein should ultimately be made available to the Grantee for development.

The proposed change in scope of Grant SG-2006-106 to partially fund a reimbursement for the East Lakeshore Drive project, and to partially fund the trail reconstruction project in the park that was initially financed with Grant SG-2006-108 and a Federal TEA-21 grant is consistent with the legislative determinations and the Metropolitan Council's determinations in funding a portion of these grants in the 2006-07 CIP. Therefore it is reasonable to approve an amendment to change the scope of Grant SG-2006-106 as requested by the City.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that requests for CIP reimbursement consideration are consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f). This review concludes that the reimbursement consideration request of up to \$148,797.19 for partially financing the redevelopment of trails and new trail construction in Como Regional Park is consistent with the terms of Strategy 2(f) of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. Approval to consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul up to

\$148,797.19 in the 2008-09 regional parks capital improvement program for this project does not commit the Council to finance it at this time. The timing of when the City is reimbursed is dependent on when this project is funded in the 2008-09 capital improvement program. However, 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.

2. The requested change in scope of Grant SG-2006-106 to partially fund a reimbursement for the East Lakeshore Drive project at Como Regional Park, and to partially fund the trail reconstruction project in Como Regional Park that was initially financed with Grant SG-2006-108 and a Federal TEA-21 grant is consistent with the legislative determinations and the Metropolitan Council's determinations in funding a portion of these grants in the 2006-07 CIP.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the request to consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul up to \$148,797.19 in the 2008-09 regional parks capital improvement program for partially financing the redevelopment of trails and new trail construction in Como Regional Park as described in Attachment 1. However, 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.
2. Authorize a change in scope of Grant SG-2006-106 that allows up to \$147,202.81 to be spent for the Como Regional Park trail project referenced in recommendation 1 and \$65,797.19 to be spent for a reimbursement on the East Lakeshore Drive rehabilitation project in Como Regional Park.

Attachment 1: Electronic copy. Original on file at Metropolitan Council office

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks

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July 13, 2007

Mr. Arne Stefferud, CLP
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: Amend Grant SG-2006-106 (East Lakeshore Drive- reimbursement)

Dear Mr. Stefferud:

The Como Regional Park Trail Reconstruction Project (SG 2006-108) received \$375,000.00 in funding from the Regional Park Capital Improvement Program as a required match to a \$697,600.00 TEA-21 grant. We have received bids for construction and find that we require an additional \$296,000.00 to fully fund construction of this project.

There is currently a balance of \$147,202.81 remaining in grant SG-2006-106 which was designated for completion of the reimbursement for development of .7 miles of trails on East Lakeshore Drive in Como Park. This balance is largely the result of a late project funding addition from the Capital Region Watershed District for their participation in an existing project phase designed to treat rainwater run-off prior to its infiltration into Como Lake. We would like to utilize this balance to fund part of the gap for completion of the current Como Park Trail Reconstruction project.

Therefore, this letter requests that the Metropolitan Council consider revising the existing project description in Grant SG-06-106, East Lakeshore Reimbursement, to include language that would allow use of \$147,202.81 for the Como Regional Park Trail Reconstruction project (SG 2006-108) and \$65,797.19 for the reimbursement for East Lakeshore Drive (SG 2006-106) .

In addition to the above grant description language change we are also requesting the Metro Council to act on a reimbursement consideration for a loan of \$148,797.19 from Saint Paul Public Works Department to fund the additional gap beyond that which SG-06-106 and grant SG 06108 will finance for the Como Trail project. We will be then be adding this reimbursement request amount of \$148,797.19 to the 2008/09 CIP. We will be revising our preliminary CIP project priority list to include this amount by reducing the Como Park Aquatic grant amount from \$786,000 to \$637, 203.

Thank you for getting this request on the August 7, 2007 MPOSC meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Martinez".

Jody Martinez, ASLA
Design and Construction Manager

CC : Bob Bierscheid, Don Ganje, Tom Russell, Calvin Wheeler



CAPRA Accreditation

AA-ADA-EEO Employer



National Gold Medal Award

Attachment 2: Como Regional Park (Dotted lines are trails)

