

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

March 4, 2008

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Glen Skovholt, Barb Schmidt, Gary Botzek, Richard Jabs, Emily Barbeau, Jesse Reinhardt, Bob Moeller, Robert Wicklund

ABSENT: Daniel Shlaferman, Dan Wolter, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Skovholt called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on March 4, 2008.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Wicklund motioned and Commissioner Schmidt seconded to approve the March 4, 2008 Agenda and the February 6, 2008 minutes. The motion carried.

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to Interested Persons to Address the Commission on Matters Not on the Agenda (Each speaker is limited to a five-minute presentation.)

None.

BUSINESS:

(2007-249) Request for Acquisition Opportunity Grant to partially finance the acquisition of 9633 East Bush Lake Road in Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, City of Bloomington - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud did a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City of Bloomington's request for an acquisition opportunity grant.

Stefferud described the parcel and showed maps indicating its location within the boundary of Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. The City has requested "Option 2: Revised Rules" be considered to finance 75% of the acquisition cost (\$339,389).

Wicklund asked how many homes are left along Oregon Avenue. Randy Quale, Bloomington Parks stated there is one addition home and one vacant lot.

Wicklund asked when construction of a realigned Bush Lake Road would begin. Quale responded that at this point, no timetable has been established.

Botzek asked about the quality of the land. Quale responded that it is upland woodland and very desirable.

Moeller asked if the existing house has any value or if it would be demolished. Quale stated that they are looking at demolishing. He noted that they would inquire if there is anyone interested in relocating, but homes of this quality don't usually get relocated.

Moeller asked what our policy is if homes have value and are sold – who gets the money? Stefferud explained that if a home is sold, the money goes to the agency.

Reinhardt asked about historical structures. Stefferud stated that if they are on the historical registry, we look at reusing them or moving them.

It was moved by Commissioner Jabs and seconded by Commissioner Wicklund to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$339,389 comprised of Metropolitan Council bonds in the Land Acquisition Opportunity Account portion of the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to the City of Bloomington. The grant will partially finance the land and structure associated with the 9633 East Bush Lake Road Parcel in Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve as shown on Attachments 2 and 3. **The motion carried.**

(2008-60) Request for revised reimbursement consideration authorization for Wabun Picnic Area rehabilitation in Minnehaha Regional Park, Mpls. Park & Rec. Board - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Minneapolis Park Board's request and gave background of a previous grant from the Metropolitan Council in 2005 and a grant from the Minnesota Veterans Home. He then discussed the reimbursement request analysis and staff's conclusions and recommendations.

Skovholt clarified if the House Bill prevails, this issue becomes null. The recommended State bond appropriation in the House of Representatives for the 2008-09 Parks CIP would provide enough funds so that a \$2.8 million grant could be awarded for the project later this spring.

Botzek asked if this item could be put on hold. Stefferud responded that no, this is a time sensitive issue in order to allow the Park Board to continue their work.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt to recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in a future regional parks CIP, the difference between \$2.8 million and what is granted for completing the renovation of the Wabun Picnic Area in Minnehaha Regional Park as described in the 2008-09 Regional Parks CIP. 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. **The motion carried.**

(2008-59) Request for Easement Approval at Battle Creek Regional Park, Ramsey County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks filling in for Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner-Parks

Stefferud explained the time sensitivity of this item. Federal funding for the roadway reconstruction project is directly related to approval of the easements. The easements need to be executed by March 31, 2008 or Ramsey County and its partners will lose \$3.7 million in federal funding. In order to meet this deadline, this item was discussed by the Community Development Committee on March 3 and will be brought forward for action by the Metropolitan Council on March 12, 2008.

Stefferud did a PowerPoint presentation describing the request for easement and approval at Battle Creek Regional Park. He described the Centruy Avenue impact to Battle Creek Regional Park including:

- 0.81- acre drainage easement
- 0.13-acre right of way easement
- Temporary construction easement
- \$140,000 towards acquiring Parcel #6 originally approved in Metro Council action 2007-372

Stefferud discussed factors analysed and staff's conclusions and recommendations. He noted that the action that CDC took on March 3 was amended and is not shown in the third recommendation of the memo provided for the Commission. Stefferud discussed the 4th conclusion and described the amended action taken by CDC.

Schmidt asked if it is the Council's policy that revenue from easements be spent on parks. Stefferud stated that it is not, but noted that the County Parks Department proposed this and it is a good idea.

Botzek asked for clarification on who is paying \$140,000 for the easement. Stefferud stated that it was financed with federal grant money.

It was moved by Botzek and seconded by Moeller to recommend the amended language that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the request to allow permanent drainage and right-of-way easements as shown on Figure 2 of this staff report to be recorded on the property adjacent to Century Avenue at Battle Creek Regional Park.
2. Authorize the Regional Administrator, on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, to execute an approval designating the nature, extent and duration of the use to be duly filed and recorded at the time of the filing and recording of the easement.
3. Request Ramsey County to apply the compensation of \$140,000 it receives for the easements toward the amount it can request for reimbursement in a future regional park CIP for the acquisition of inholding Parcel #6 at Battle Creek Regional Park. This would reduce the reimbursement consideration to \$34,913 (Council Item 2007-372). 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.

Skovholt noted that this Commission agreeing with the recommendation from the CDC. **The motion carried.**

REPORTS

Staff: Stefferud gave a quick Legislative update and noted that the bonding bill was passed and stated that the House Committee was meeting yet today.

Stefferud stated the LCCMR legislation will be considered in the near future.

Chair: Skovholt noted that the amendment for dedicated sales tax for parks, trails and arts is on the ballot.

Commissioners: None.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in Robert Room LLA.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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