

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

March 3, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Glen Skovholt, Chair, Barb Schmidt, Gary Botzek, Richard Jabs, Robert Wicklund, Daniel Shlaferman, Mark Peterson, Billy Dinkel,

ABSENT: Bob Moeller, 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 4:07 p.m. on March 3, 2009.

APPRECIATION OF SERVICE

Metropolitan Council Chair, Peter Bell gave his thanks to Chair Skovholt in appreciation of service to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, as Chair Skovholt announced that he is stepping down.

Skovholt stated that it has been a pleasure working with staff, commission members and the implementing agencies. He stated that good work has been done by this Commission. Skovholt suggested, on a parting note, that a chapter be added to the Regional Park Policy Plan regarding how money from the newly allocated sales tax will be allocated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Wicklund motioned and Commissioner Jabs seconded to approve the March 3, 2009 Agenda and the January 6, 2009 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.)

Greg Mack, Ramsey County Parks expressed his appreciation, on behalf of himself and Ramsey County, for Skovholt's leadership through some difficult issues at times.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks echoed Mack's comments and thanked Skovholt for his leadership and willingness to listen.

Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District agreed with both Mack and Sullivan and expressed his appreciation and his board's appreciation of Skovholt's service.

INFORMATION

Regional Parks Foundation – Peter Bell, Metropolitan Council Chair

Bell gave an update on the Regional Parks Foundation (Foundation) starting with some history on the establishment of the Foundation and some of the initial ground work that has been done. He also discussed some of the compelling reasons behind the formation of the Foundation.

Bell described the make up of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, to include 26 members.

- Metropolitan Council Chair
- Ex-officio members (3)
- Conservation partners (3)
- Park agency (staff or executive) representative (10)

- Community members (9)

Bell stressed the importance of the participation from the implementing agencies. He stated that this can not be seen as a 'Foundation' of the Metropolitan Council.

Bell discussed three sub-committees being proposed for the Foundation:

- Audit and Finance Committee
- Stakeholders Committee
- Executive Committee

Bell discussed the Board of Directors Member Perspectives, briefly describing why representatives that will make up the Board were chosen.

Bell noted that the first task is to develop a strategic plan. He also discussed the Foundation's need to provide a link to the community and also to assist with awareness-raising.

Bell discussed tasks expected of the Executive Director:

- Recruit members/donors
- Implement strategic plan
- Plan fundraising events
- Coordinate grant requests
- Develop foundation support

Bell discussed unresolved issues. He stated that there are 'three buckets of money'. One is the Metropolitan Council's, one is from the \$.038 sales tax dedication, and one will be from the Foundation. The issue is how these dollars will be coordinated in funding Parks capital.

Bell discussed timelines for next steps.

Botzek asked of members of the Board must also have residence within the seven county metro area. Bell responded that this was a good question and one that hasn't been discussed yet. He noted that this would be a decision of the Board.

Bell introduced Chuck Haas, who will be replacing Glen Skovholt as Chairman of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and also serving as an ex-officio member of the Foundation.

BUSINESS:

(2009-8) Change in Scope for Cleary Lake Regional Park Maintenance Shop Grant SG-2006-132, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud did a PowerPoint presentation discussing the analysis and conclusions of Three Rivers request for a change in the scope of the Cleary Lake Regional Park Maintenance Shop Grant.

Wicklund asked if a 600 square foot building will be sufficient. Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District responded that for now it will be and that it can provide summer and winter operational support.

Dinkel asked if this facility will replace the 2,500 square foot building originally planned for. Carlson stated that it does.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wicklund and seconded by Commissioner Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorizes a change in the scope of grant SG-2006-132 to construct a 600 square foot

maintenance building at Cleary Lake Regional Park and directs Council staff to execute an amendment to the grant agreement that reflects this change in scope. **The motion carried.**

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Skovholt again expressed his appreciation and thanks to Commissioners, staff and implementing agencies for their cooperation and help during his tenure as MPOSC Chair.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Stefferud gave a brief legislative update on appropriations legislation for the Regional Park System noting that this was still the 'middle of the process'.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and there was a small reception following in honor of his service to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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