

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

April 7, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Haas, Chair, Barb Schmidt, Richard Jabs, Daniel Shlaferman, Mark Peterson, Billy Dinkel, Bob Moeller,

ABSENT: Robert Wicklund, Gary Botzek, Dan Wolter, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

OATH OF OFFICE

Metropolitan Council Chair, Peter Bell swore in Chuck Haas, new Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Chair. His term will end January 2011.

Chair Haas, in turn, swore in incumbent Commissioners Botzek, Shlaferman and Schmidt. Their terms will expire January 2013.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:04p.m. on April 7, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Jabs motioned and Commissioner Shlaferman seconded to approve the April 7, 2009 Agenda and the March 3, 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.)

None.

BUSINESS:

2010-2015 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Structure and Timeline – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud outlined the structure and timeline for preparing the 2010-15 Parks CIP. He stated that it focuses on the 2010-11 portion of the 2010-15 period of the CIP since that is the time frame that will be considered for funding in the 2010 legislative session. Stefferud outlined the expected time frame for the adoption of the CIP.

Stefferud noted that it has been suggested to have a joint meeting with the Community Development Committee (CDC) on May 18th.

Stefferud outlined staff's recommendation that the Metropolitan Council direct Council staff to:

1. Prepare a Preliminary 2010-15 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that is modeled after the 2008-13 Parks CIP using the same CIP formula shown in Table 1 of the provided memorandum and with the park agency amounts shown in Table 4 of that memorandum.
2. Prepare a Preliminary 2010 State bond request of \$10.5 million that is proposed to finance the State's portion of the 2010-11 Parks CIP.

3. Prepare a Final 2010-15 Parks CIP and Final 2010 State bond request for the 2010-11 Parks CIP and coordinate that with the preparation of the Council's 2010-15 Unified CIP using the timeline shown in Table 5 of the memorandum provided.

Jabs asked if the implementing agencies have expressed any feedback regarding the formula. Stefferud responded that the formula was published last week on the website and staff was expecting feedback at today's meeting.

Haas asked for more information regarding the joint meeting with the CDC on May 18. Beckman stated that this is at the request of Dan Wolter. She noted that the joint meeting is proposed to begin at 3:00p.m., in LLA and topics to be discussed will be the Constitutional Amendment and the CIP. The commissions would then separate to carry out their separate business meetings. This meeting would be in lieu of the May 5th meeting.

Schmidt stated that this has been done in the past and she is glad that we will be doing it again. She felt it was valuable in the past and hopes that it is something that is considered again.

Jabs asked for feedback from the implementing agencies. The following implementing agencies spoke generally in favor of the CIP formula stating that it was still in its 'infancy' having only been used once.

- Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District
- Steve Sullivan, Dakota County
- Mike Hahm, City of St. Paul
- Mike Kimble, Minneapolis Parks

They noted that a lot of work/collaboration went into developing the formula and a key component was that with this formula every agency receives a percentage of whatever the appropriation is. In past years, there may have been agencies that did not receive any of the legislative appropriation.

Marty Walsh, Carver County spoke against the formula. He stated that, in his opinion, developing agencies struggle with a formula that is heavily weighted on park visitation. This creates the question of what comes first: usage or a facility. He feels that a formula where the percentage of development of that agency's part of the park system is somehow factored in would be more appropriate.

Haas stated that he appreciates hearing the comments from the implementing agencies and also all the work that went into the development of the formula.

Jabs noted that it is important to hear from the implementing agencies. He stated that based on the feedback he feels the formula, as is, should be used again in this next CIP process.

Formal action will be taken at the next MPOSC meeting.

Scheduling Off-Site MPOSC Meeting/Tours for Summer 2009 – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd discussed offsite business meeting traditionally held in the summer months allowing the Commission to also tour regional park sites and facilities financed with regional park capital improvement grants and to discussion policy issues. Stefferud reviewed a list of what has been done in the past several years and a proposed schedule and location of offsite meetings/tours for 2009.

No formal action was taken, however the Commission concurred with the proposed schedule as shown below:

1. June 2: Offsite meeting at Bunker Hills Regional Park campground visitor center, Anoka County. Then tour of Bunker Beach in the park and Rum River Central Regional Park. A significant amount of capital improvements have occurred at these parks that were funded with previous regional park capital improvement grants. The MPOSC has not toured Rum River Central Regional Park.

2. July 7: Offsite meeting and tour of Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District. We will meet at the Weinkaupf house, an acquisition that was financed with a Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant in 2007. Other parcels (Baudin and Westerlund) were acquired with grants authorized in 2008. We will tour other parcels yet to be acquired in the park and see the rehabilitation of paved parking lots, trails and park roads that were funded with a 2008-09 CIP grant.
3. August 4: Offsite meeting and tour of Silverwood Special Recreation Feature, Three Rivers Park District. This new special recreation feature was acquired in 2001 from the Salvation Army. The first phase of developing the park began in 2008 and should be completed by this time. We will conduct a business meeting in the new visitor center.

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Stefferud gave a brief update on the legislative session. He cautioned that while the session is not over yet, there was optimism as the House Environment and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Parks and Trails Fund appropriation. He noted that the Metropolitan Regional Parks System is proposed to receive \$7.5 million in FY 2010 and \$14.6 million in FY 2011. Ten percent would be for acquisition grants and the remaining 90% would be split for grants to the implementing agencies for operations and maintenance, and the CIP. He discussed other bills pending as well.

NEXT MEETING

Proposed for: Monday, May 18, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Haas adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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