

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

**MEETING OF**  
**METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION**

**May 18, 2009**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chuck Haas, Chair, Barb Schmidt, Richard Jabs, Daniel Shlaferman, Bob Moeller, Robert Wicklund, Gary Botzek,

**ABSENT:** Mark Peterson, Billy Dinkel, Dan Wolter, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00p.m. on May 18, 2009.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Commissioner Schmidt motioned and Commissioner Jabs seconded to approve the May 18, 2009 Agenda and the April 7, 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:**

**(2009-116) 2010-15 Parks CIP Structure and Timeline - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud stated that he will be reporting the recommendations of this commission to the Community Development Committee at their meeting later today. He summarized the past discussion from the April 7 MPOSC Meeting and discussed the current recommendations based on that discussion.

It was motioned by Commissioner Wicklund and seconded by Commissioner Jabs to recommend 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 as shown in Table 1 of this memorandum and with the park agency amounts shown in Table 4 of March 26 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 March 26 memorandum.

**The motion carried.**

**(2009-170) Request for reimbursement consideration in future Regional Parks CIP for Mississippi River Regional Trail projects and signing projects, Dakota County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud discussed Dakota County's request for reimbursement considerations of up to \$2,325,665 in future regional parks capital improvement programs for the following Mississippi River Regional Trail projects:

- \$550,000 as match to a \$837,264 federal grant for trail beginning at South St. Paul border south to 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Inver Grove Heights
- \$150,000 as match to a \$772,800 federal grant for trail beginning at Cahill Avenue South to Pine Bend Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)

- \$125,000 for design/engineering and 550,665 for construction as match to a \$943,312 federal grant for trail beginning at Pine Bend SNA southeast to 117<sup>th</sup> Street
- \$325,000 as match to a \$842,533 federal grant for trail beginning at Spring Lake Park Reserve east to Hastings
- \$400,000 as match to all federal grants listed above if needed
- \$125,000 for entrance, directional, regulatory and interpretive signs at Dakota County regional parks and trail units
- \$100,000 for landscaping, ecological improvements, signs and other amenities at the Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center in Spring Lake Park Reserve.

It was motioned by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner Wicklund to recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$2,325,665 for projects shown in Table 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. **The motion carried.**

**(2009-171) Acquisition Opportunity Grant request to purchase two parcels for Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park, Ramsey County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferd discussed Ramsey County's negotiated proposal to acquire 2 parcels for Bald Eagle Otter Lakes Regional Parks. One parcel is 1.83 acres and the other parcel is 1.27 acres. The County requests a grant of \$411,422 for the 1.83 acre parcel and \$281,528 for the 1.27 acre parcel from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to finance 75% of the costs to acquire these parcels. Both grants would be financed with Metropolitan Council bonds only since both parcels include the acquisition of a home as well as land.

Commission Shlaferman asked about two in-holdings on the east side of Otto Lake Road. Greg Mack, Ramsey County stated that they are not for sale at this time.

It was motioned by Commission Shlaferman and seconded by Commissioner Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a grant of \$411,422 from the Metropolitan Council Acquisition Grant Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Ramsey County to partially finance the acquisition of 1.83 acres at 1466 East County Rd H2 as part of Bald Eagle Otter Lakes Regional Park.
2. Authorize a grant of \$281,528 from the Metropolitan Council Acquisition Grant Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Ramsey County to partially finance the acquisition of 1.27 acres at 1700 North County Line Rd. as part of Bald Eagle Otter Lakes Regional Park.

**The motion carried.**

**(2009-172) Acquisition Opportunity Grant request to purchase one parcel for Rush Creek Regional Trail, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferd discussed Three Rivers Park District's negotiated proposal to acquire a parcel (Ganzer) for Rush Creek Regional Trail. The Park District requests a grant of \$414,750 for a 9.42 acre parcel from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to finance 75% of the acquisition costs. Since the grant would only fund land acquisition, the 2008 appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund could be used to finance 60% of the grant (\$248,850) with Metropolitan Council bonds financing the remaining 40% of the grant (\$165,900).

Wicklund asked where Rush Creek begins/ends. Boe Carlson, Three Rivers responded that it goes from Elm Creek Park Reserve to Crow-Hassen Park Reserve.

It was motioned by Commissioner Wicklund and seconded by Commissioner Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$407,400 from the State Acquisition Grant Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to partially finance the acquisition of the 9.44 acre Ganzer parcel as part of Rush Creek Regional Trail. The grant should be financed with \$244,440 of State

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Funds and \$162,960 of Metropolitan Council bonds. **The motion carried.**

## **REPORTS**

**Chair:** None.

**Commissioners:** Moeller reported that he sits on the Board for Outward Bound working with youth. He stated that the National Board is re-looking at the Twin Cities for an Outward Bound Program and would probably like to look at an existing park. Greg Mack stated that they would be willing to host a program and work with the Board. He stated that he felt most/all of the implementing agencies felt the same way. Moeller stated that the looks forward to working with the implementing agencies in the future. Haas suggested a presentation from Outward Bound.

**Staff:** None.

**Other:** Mark Themig, Scott County Parks reported on their plans to bring Cedar Lake Farm online. It will be opening June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEXT MEETING**

June 2, 2009 – Business meeting at the Bunker Hills Activities Center followed by a bus tour of Bunker Beach at Bunker Hills Regional Park and Rum River Central Regional Park.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Haas adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

Q:\parks\2009\06022009\5-18-2009 minutes.docm