

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

August 4, 2009

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

ABSENT: Mark Peterson, 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 4:05p.m. on August 4, 2009.

Chair Haas welcomed Jane Johnson, Director, Regional Parks Foundation and Rosemary Fransisy of the Three River Park Board.

Commissioner Robert Wicklund announced he is resigning his commission and this is his last MPOSC meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Schmidt motioned and Commissioner Wicklund seconded to approve the August 4, 2009 Agenda and the July 7, 2009 MPOSC 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:

None

Information Item: Distributing State Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations for Metropolitan Regional Parks System operations and maintenance

Arne Stefferud presented an informational PowerPoint presentation of the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations for Metropolitan Regional Parks System operations and maintenance.

Minnesota Statute 473.351 enacted in 1985 calls for the State to partially finance the operations and maintenance of the Regional Park System.

Minnesota Statutes 473.351 requires that the Metropolitan Council distribute operation and maintenance grants to the regional park implementing agencies according to the following formula:

- 40 percent based on each agency's proportion of total regional system use or visits in 2008;
- 40 percent based on each agency's proportion of total regional system operation and maintenance expenditures in the previous calendar year (2008); and,
- 20 percent based on each agency's proportion of total regional system acreage (as of July 1, 2009), with park reserve resource management lands divided by four.

This memorandum illustrates that \$8,794,000 of State funds was appropriated for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (State Fiscal Year 2010); how much each park agency will receive from that appropriation based on the statutory formula; and the percentage of each agency's 2009 operations and maintenance budget that would be financed with the State funds.

No questions.

Information Item: Report on 2010 State Bond request for 2010-11 Metro Regional Parks CIP and park agency requests for 2012-13 and 2014-15 portions of 2010-15 Metro Council's Unified CIP

Arne Stefferud presented an informational PowerPoint presentation report on 2010 State Bond request for 2010-11 Metro Regional Parks CIP and park agency requests for 2012-13 and 2014-15 portions of 2010-15 Metro Council's Unified CIP.

MN Statute 473.147, Subdivision 1 requires the Metropolitan Council, after consultation with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC), municipalities, park districts and counties in the metropolitan area to prepare and adopt a system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's development guide. The law also requires the Council to include a five year capital improvement program (CIP) in the parks policy plan, which should be revised periodically, and to establish criteria and priorities for the allocation of funds from the capital improvement program.

On June 10, the Metropolitan Council directed 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.
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.

This memorandum is an information item report to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission as a result of the Council's directive.

Steve Sullivan from Dakota County asked for more information regarding evaluating the 2010-2014 CIP for Dakota County and the Metropolitan Council, do they parallel each other and does this process allow for changes in the CIP.

Arne Stefferud responded budget changes are allowed if submitted with an explanation before the Governor's recommendations are published.

Information Item: Report on FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund financed grants to park agencies approved by Metro Council on July 8

Arne Stefferud presented an informational PowerPoint presentation report on FY 2010 Parks and Trails Fund financed grants to park agencies approved by Metro Council on July 8

Last November the voters approved an amendment to the State's constitution that raised the sales tax 3/8ths percent for the next 25 years. This new revenue is dedicated into four accounts--including the "Parks and Trails Fund". Revenue in the Parks and Trails Fund must be spent to "support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance." This can include expenditures to operate and maintain parks and trails, as well as expenditures for land acquisition and capital improvements. These appropriations must supplement—not supplant traditional funding sources.

The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$27,781,000 from the Parks and Trails Fund for the next two fiscal years to the Metropolitan Council for the following purposes:

- An earmark appropriation of \$40,000 for a grant to Hennepin County to plant trees along Victory Memorial Parkway.
- \$2,774,000 for Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants, which must be matched with \$1,849,000 of Metro Council bonds.

\$24,967,000 for grants to the regional park agencies that is disbursed under a formula in the law. That formula considers each park agencies' population; the amount of park and trails visits and non-local visits each agency hosts per year; the amount each agency spends on regional park system operations and maintenance; and the amount of regional park and trail land each agency manages.

Chair Haas asked Arne Stefferud for a definition of Regional Significance, Mr. Stefferud explained the funds are used for capital and non-capital expenses.

Commissioner Dan Shlaferman questioned the Sales Tax projection, suggesting optimistic forecasting. Arne Stefferud responded a conservative approach was used to ensure numbers are real over the next couple of years.

REPORTS

Chair: None

Commissioners: None.

Staff: None

NEXT MEETING

September 1, 2009 - Business meeting

ADJOURNMENT

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

TOUR

The MPOSC committee was led on a tour of the Silverwood Park and facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner on behalf of
Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary