

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

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

October 6, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Haas, Richard Jabs, Barb Schmidt, Bob Moeller, Billy Dinkel, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

ABSENT:

Daniel Shlaferman, Mark Peterson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:06 p.m. on October 6, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Chair Haas noted that the order of the Agenda was subject to the arrival of Chair Bell (item #3 on the Agenda) Commissioner Jabs motioned and Commissioner Moeller seconded to approve the October 6, 2009 Agenda and the September 3, 2009 Minutes. **The motion carried.**

WELCOME: Chair Haas introduced and welcomed Wendy Wulff, the new Metropolitan Council liaison to the Commission. Wendy is from District 16.

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to interested persons to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda (each speaker is limited to five-minute presentation).

None.

BUSINESS

2030 Park Policy Plan Update – Jan Youngquist, Sr. Planner-Parks

Youngquist gave a briefing on the Regional Parks Policy Plan Update. She stated that this is an overview for information only and will not be acted on at this meeting. She discussed proposed additions to the regional parks system and outlined proposed park search areas and regional trail search corridors.

The areas proposed for consideration are based on local proposals through the comprehensive planning process and are not necessarily endorsed by the Metropolitan Council. These areas will be analyzed during the update of the Policy Plan.

Youngquist outlined proposed regional park study areas as well as the deletion of a proposed regional search area.

Youngquist discussed the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant as a proposed study area. She noted that it will be looked at more in depth at future meetings.

Presentation of Service Plaques to Former Commissioners Gary Botzek and Robert Wicklund

Metropolitan Council Chair Bell presented plaques of appreciation to Gary Botzek and Bob Wicklund for their service to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.

Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant Request for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, Scott County – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the request from Scott County for a park acquisition opportunity grant request for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.

Stefferud noted \$100K value of the park land is being donated to the Regional Park Foundation. The Foundation will own the parkland in partnership with the County. The Foundation will then transfer title of its share of the parcel to Scott County in the future.

Haas discussed charitable opportunity being utilized by using the Regional Park Foundation. The land owners are able to donate a dollar amount when selling land at a reduced price to the implementing agency and then claim the donation.

Beckman gave a background of the Regional Park Foundation and mentioned a program sponsored in part by the Foundation entitled *Parks for People*. The program will air on Channel 2 at 7pm on October 7, 2009.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Jabs to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$369,683 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Scott County to partially finance the acquisition of 7.05 acres (Novotny parcel) as part of Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. The grant should be financed with \$221,810 of the remaining 2008 State Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation and a portion of the 2009 appropriation plus \$147,873 of Metropolitan Council bonds. **The motion carried.**

Amendment to FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund Project List for Anoka County and Reimbursement Authorization for Anoka County Regional Park Project Financed with FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund Appropriation – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud outlined the request by Anoka County to amend FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list by deferring 5 projects totaling \$600,000 and inserting a \$600,000 trail bridges replacement project at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and to begin work on trail bridges replacement project prior to July 1, 2010.

The Committee was informed that amending Anoka County's project list for its FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation had not been done in other cases where park agencies requested approval to begin spending their own funds on FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund projects. However, it was appropriate to approve the amendment to the County's project list.

It was moved by Jabs and seconded by Schmidt to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to Anoka County's FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund project list which provides \$600,000 to replace two trail bridges at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and defers five projects to FY 2012 as shown in Table 1 of this memorandum (provided at meeting), and authorizes Anoka County to expend its own funds on the trail bridge replacement project under the stipulation that the County will not be reimbursed for its expenses from the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation until the appropriation is available and after execution of a grant agreement for the project.

REPORTS

Chair: Haas announced that Wendy Wulff is a 'blue star' mother.

Staff: None.

Commissioners: None.

NEXT MEETING

November 5, 2009 – moved from 11/3 due to elections.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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