

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

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

**February 7, 2012**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Lee, Daniel Shlaferman, Seyon Nyanwleh, Carrie Wasley, Barb Schmidt, Bob Moeller, Emily Johnson Piper, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

**ABSENT:** Chuck Haas

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Wasley called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02p.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Commissioner Moeller motioned and Commissioner Schmidt seconded to approve the February 7, 2012 Agenda and the January 3, 2012 Minutes. Vice Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION:**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan, Scott County - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Youngquist gave a presentation on Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan, located in Scott County. He gave some history of the planning for this park as outlined in the staff report provided and the PowerPoint shown. She then reviewed the conclusions and staff's recommendations.

Piper confirmed that we are 'recommending', not 'requiring', that proceeds from the sale of the land being removed from the boundary of the park be reinvested in land acquisition and development costs. Youngquist stated this is correct.

Shlaferman asked about the development in the northwest corner of the park. Youngquist stated that it is developed and has homes on it. Shlaferman clarified road access to the homes.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan, Scott County (Referral No. 50017-1)
2. Recommend that proceeds from the sale of County-owned land that is being removed from the boundary of the park be reinvested in land acquisition or development for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.

Without further discussion, Vice Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**Change in scope of development grant SG-2010-102, Three Rivers Park District - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Youngquist gave background on the original grant and described the change of scope of this grant, as outlined in the handout provided.

Schmidt asked if the other three projects were done. Youngquist responded that they are.

Schmidt asked how the change in repair to the maintenance shop has doubled in cost. Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District explained that it hasn't changed. He clarified that the Park District had anticipated paying the remainder of the costs (over \$650,000) and noted that they will now be able to use those funds elsewhere in the system.

Moeller commended the Park District on being able to save over \$500,000.

It was moved by Lee and seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a second amendment to Grant SG-2010-102 which changes the scope of the grant to allow \$538,000 of the grant to be used for the Crow Hassan Park Reserve maintenance shop project, thus revising the total allocation to \$1,168,000 for this project.

Without further discussion, Vice Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Nyanwleh asked if this was part of the original Master Plan. Youngquist responded yes, and stated that anything an agency seeks funding for must be part of an approved Master Plan.

#### **Blakely Bluffs Park Reserve Master Plan, Scott County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferd described the acquisition Master Plan for Blakeley Bluff Park Reserve as outlined in the handout provided.

Shlaferman asked about inholdings – do we weigh the cost of land and ecological value. Stefferud responded yes and noted that the land analysis deals with these types of issues.

Moeller stated that he has toured this property and noted that it is a wonderful site.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the Blakely Bluffs Park Reserve Acquisition Master Plan (Referral No. 50019-1).

Without further discussion, Vice Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

#### **Rice Creek West Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, Anoka County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferd outlined the amendment of the Rice Creek West Regional Trail Master Plan as described in the handout provided.

It was moved by Lee and seconded by Piper to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Rice Creek West Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, (Referral No. 50020-1)
2. Inform Anoka County that cost sharing of the ¾ acre parcel acquisition with the entity that operates the Banfill Center for the Arts should be done so that park funds are spent on outdoor recreation purposes.

Without further discussion, Vice Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

## **REPORTS**

- **Chair** – None.

- **Commissioners** – Moeller discussed the historic area down near Blakeley and asked if there is anything that the Metropolitan Council does to recognize the historic nature of this area. Beckman stated that this was part of our Natural Resource digital Atlas but we are not allowed to be specific on exact locations of historical findings/happenings. Stefferud added that one of the goals of this Master Plan is to protect the land. He stated that although we cannot show exactly where events happened, telling the story will be part of the development plan. Stefferud stated that the Arts and Heritage Legacy Fund plays a part of protecting this as well.

Nyanwleh asked if we approve a Master Plan at this level, does this mean the Council will automatically approve it as well. Beckman stated that the Commission is an advisory group to the Council and the input is highly valued. Although she did not recall the Council ever turning down a recommended Master Plan, they could.

Nyanwleh stated that it appears, through the process of our work, that things are ‘pre-approved’. Beckman discussed the work of the Commission in developing the Parks Policy Plan and its importance as well its role in the review of Master Plans. She discussed the role of the Commission and the valuable input it gives to the Council. She also noted that the Council does not own/operate the implementing agencies.

Wulff discussed two facets of the Council - the policy level – creating policy, as well as the implementation level. She noted at time when a change was made at the Community Development Committee where the Commission agreed to a study area for a park in St. Paul and the CDC said disagreed.

- **Staff** – Beckman noted that a new member is being appointed to the Commission at tomorrow’s Council Meeting to fill the vacancy in District E.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be March 6, 2012 beginning at 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Executive Assistant  
Community Development