

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

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

**September 11, 2012**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tony Yarusso, Bob Moeller, Carrie Wasley, Barb Schmidt, Jeff Lee, Emily Johnson Piper

**ABSENT:** Daniel Shlaferman, Seyon Nyanwleh, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Wasley called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, September, 2012. The meeting was held at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Nordic Center following tour of the Center and Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

**INTRODUCTION**

Vice Chair Wasley introduced Dean Johnston, Mayor of Lake Elmo who will be joining the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission as Chairman after his appointment by the Metropolitan Council on 9/12/12. He will be chairing the October 2, 2012 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Moeller made a motion and it was seconded by Piper to approve the September 11, 2012 agenda. Moeller made a motion and it was seconded by Lee to approve the July 10, 2012 minutes. Moeller made a motion and it was seconded by Wasley to approve the August 7, 2012 minutes. Piper made a motion and it was seconded by Moeller to approve the August 21, 2012 Special Meeting minutes. **All motions approved.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**Proposed Rule Changes for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grants - Arne Stefferud, Acting Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit**

Stefferud gave background regarding past discussions and proposed rule changes. He reviewed the objectives of the rule changes and gave a summary of existing rules.

Schmidt suggested language that allowed for flexibility. Instead of listing everything (in Rule 2), have a clause such as ‘any other reasonable costs related to the acquisition’.

There was extensive discussion regarding Rule 4 by both the MPOSC members and the implementing agencies (IAs). It was noted that IAs would be responsible for operations and maintenance of lands acquired and felt that this was their ‘skin in the game’. Others stated they felt Rule 4 was a disincentive to the IAs to obtain donations of land or lands obtained by cities through parkland dedication ordinances.

Stefferud, upon request, gave some history to past policies where park agencies were required to pay 60% of acquisition costs, however that money was eligible (not guaranteed) for reimbursement.

Moeller suggested eliminating Rule 4.

Yarusso asked what other funds require a match. Stefferud discussed the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund requiring a Council Bond match. Stefferud stated that the Legislature dropped match requirements for Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grants but the grantees who provide a match are given greater priority.

Moeller asked if staff would recommend the exclusion of Rule 4 or inclusion. Stefferud stated he would recommend excluding it.

Moeller made a motion to remove Rule 4 and it was seconded by Schmidt. **The motion carried.**

Schmidt discussed considering eliminating the 25% match as well and asked if it would take legislative action. Stefferud responded that there is no statutory requirement to have a local match to the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund grants.

Yarusso asked about giving priority to grant requests that do have a match. Stefferud stated that delays would be detrimental to land acquisitions.

Schmidt asked what IAs thought of getting rid of match requirements. Stefferud stated that IAs felt it would not be a good idea.

After further discussion, Moeller called to question and asked Stefferud for a clarification on what motion staff is looking for. Stefferud reviewed staff's recommendation.

Wasley asked if this will come back to this Commission prior to going before the Council. Stefferud stated that it would (after the public hearing) and reviewed the schedule.

Yarusso made a motion and it was seconded by Schmidt to eliminate Rule 4 from the memorandum provided and recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing on November 19, 2012 as part of its Community Development Committee meeting regarding amending the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* to:
  - Replace the rules for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grants found in Chapter 4 Finance of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* with those described in this memorandum; and
  - Replace System Protection Strategy 3 of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* as described in this memorandum.

The hearing record shall remain open until 4:30 p.m., November 30, 2012.

2. Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the proposed amendment to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings.

Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**Change in scope of Grant SG-2010-025 and \$40,000 grant authorized in June 2012, Dakota County - Arne Stefferud, Acting Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit**  
Stefferud discussed the change in scope of the grants requested by Dakota County.

Schmidt motioned and it was seconded by Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a second amendment to Grant SG-2010-025 to Dakota County which changes the scope of the grant to partially fund the match to \$2 million of federal grants and supplement

\$1,039,000 of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund financed grants for the engineering, acquisition and construction of portions of the North Urban, Mississippi River, Big Rivers and Minnesota River Regional Trails.

2. Revise the scope of the \$40,000 grant to Dakota County approved on June 27, 2012 (Agenda item 2012-183) to partially fund the match to \$2 million of federal grants and supplement \$1,039,000 of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund financed grants for the engineering, acquisition and construction of portions of the North Urban, Mississippi River, Big Rivers and Minnesota River Regional Trails.

Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

## **INFORMATION**

### **Preparing for possible bonding appropriation for Metro Parks Capital Improvement Program in 2013 Legislative Session - Arne Stefferud, Acting Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit**

Stefferud noted that this is an information item only. He discussed the preparation for a possible bonding appropriation for the Metro Parks Capital Improvement Program for the 2013 Legislative Session as described in the memorandum provided.

Piper asked if this is a “wish list” for the Council to develop legislative strategies and will the Commission be asked to act on it at some time in the future. Stefferud stated that this is in preparation for the possibility of a bonding bill in the 2013 Legislative Session; if not, we are ready for 2014. He noted this is just for information purposes only and no action would be made by this Commission.

### **Distributing State Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations for Metropolitan Regional Parks System operations and maintenance - Arne Stefferud, Acting Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit**

Stefferud discussed the distribution of State Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations for the Metropolitan Regional Parks System operations and maintenance as outlined in the report provided. He noted that this report is required by state statute.

## **REPORTS**

- **Chair** – None.
- **Commissioners** – Schmidt congratulated Wasley on her award (given to an elected official) as she is the Conservation District Supervisor.
- **Staff** – None.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 in Room LLA at the Metropolitan Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Principal Administrative Specialist  
Community Development