

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, March 21, 2011

Committee Members Present: **Gary Cunningham, Chair; Vice-Chair; Steven T. Chávez, Steven Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Sandra Rummel, Roxanne Smith, Wendy Wulff**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Cunningham called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel seconded by Eklin, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

Chair Cunningham introduced Guy Peterson, Community Development Director, to the committee and gave him the opportunity to explain the CDC guidebooks given to the committee members.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Eklin to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

INFORMATION:

Regional Parks System Orientation

Jan Youngquist and Arne Stefferud provided an overview of the Regional Parks System, 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan, Regional Park Finance, MPOSC, Master Plans, CIP budgets and Grants.

The committee had some questions regarding Regional Park Funds; was there equality of resources, possible funding reductions, and funding sources. Mr. Stefferud and Ms. Youngquist explained to the Committee the funding portion of the Parks system, land acquisition opportunities, non-local benefits.

BUSINESS

2011-70 Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan, Anoka County

Senior Planner Jan Youngquist presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Munt moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 50004-1).
2. Require that Anoka County submit a negotiated cost sharing agreement related to the development of the pedestrian overpass described in Phase 5 of the master plan to the Metropolitan Council prior to seeking regional parks funding for the project, in order for the Council to determine the eligible costs for regional funding.

3. Advise Anoka County to work with the City of Ramsey to ensure that the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and Wild and Scenic River programs and standards are implemented during the park development phases.

Chair Cunningham inquired about the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area designation. Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst, described that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees the Mississippi River Critical Area Program. The Critical Area Corridor follows the Mississippi River and stretches from the City of Ramsey in Anoka County past Hastings in Dakota County. The DNR establishes rules for protecting the river, similar to zoning code requirements, which are implemented by local municipalities. **The motion carried.**

2011-71 Amend scope of Grant SG-2009-039 and Grant SG-2009-040 financed with FY 2010 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Rummel that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to grants SG-2009-039 and SG-2009-040 which changes the scope of the grants as described in this memorandum, and to approve the effective date of the grant amendment as February 16, 2011.

The Committee was informed by Council member Wulff that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) had reviewed this request and heartily supported the recommendation. She and the MPOSC members had toured Theodore Wirth Regional Park last summer and saw the need for continuing the renovation of the Wirth Lake beach parking lot and other renovations. Committee Chair Cunningham also noted the need for the renovation at the Wirth beach area. **The motion carried.**

2011-72 Amend scope of Grant SG-2008-055 and Future CIP Reimbursement Request for Como Pool Replacement Project, City of St. Paul

Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize an amendment to grant SG-2008-055 to allow up to \$240,567 to be used to partially fund replacement of the Como Park Pool, which includes design and construction of a new state of the art aquatics facility at the site of the former pool, plus constructing new parking area to meet current environmental standards.
2. Consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$5,280,000 for City bond funding to partially finance replacement of the Como Park Pool, which includes design and construction of a new state of the art

aquatics facility at the site of the former pool, plus constructing new parking area to meet current environmental standards. 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.

The Committee asked if the \$240,567 from grant SG-2008-055 was needed solely to address the cost overrun from the discovered unstable soils for the pool replacement project. Mike Kimble, City of St. Paul Parks and Rec. Division staff replied that yes, the \$240,567 was needed to remediate the unstable soils. The City had done soil borings to 20 feet. However, the unstable soils were discovered at a depth of about 30 feet during excavation for the project.

The Committee was informed about the regional use of the Como Park pool by Council member Munt.

INFORMATION:

Metro HRA Orientation

HRA manager Terri Smith provided the committee with an overview of the Metro HRA division and programs.

The committee asked Ms. Smith for a ratio of ethnicity among program participants, and funding opportunities. Ms. Smith & Livable Communities Director Beth Reetz explained to the committee the ethnic breakdown of participants is 50% minority and funding opportunities are scarce.

Research Orientation

Research Manager Libby Starling provided the committee with an overview of the Research department of the Met Council. Ms. Starling presented information on the department's products, development monitoring, GIS data and mapping, and forecast models.

The committee was very interested in GIS modeling and measuring our regional growth. The committee also expressed an interest in strategies for the livability of a region and data on a regional and national level.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on April 4, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary