

C Community Development Committee
Meeting date: March 19, 2012
For the Council Meeting of March 28, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: March 8, 2012
Subject: Change in scope of Grant SG2010-079, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
District(s), Member(s): Metropolitan Council District 7, Gary L. Cunningham
Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arne Stefferud; Planning Analyst—Parks (651-602-1360)
Division/Department: Community Development Division, Parks

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study.

Background

The current scope of grant SG-2010-079 calls for \$350,000 to be spent on a design competition for updating the Central Mississippi Riverfront and Above the Falls Regional Park master plans and \$212,000 to be spent on design and engineering for the Mill Ruins Headrace facility at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board requests that the \$212,000 portion of the grant's scope be amended as follows: At Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot, and landscaping improvements, site furniture installation, and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study for up to \$212,000.

Rationale

The reason why the grant's scope is proposed to be changed is that the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board will finance the cost to design and engineer the Mill Ruins Headrace facility with its own funds instead of with the grant. Section 9.2 of the grant agreement allows a grantee to request amendments to the grant for review/approval by the Metropolitan Council. The amended grant scope is consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. Consequently Metropolitan Council staff recommended that the scope amendment be approved.

Funding

The grant is financed with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's share of the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation to the Metropolitan Council.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission unanimously recommended approval of the recommendation at its meeting on March 6, 2012.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: February 29, 2012

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Jan Youngquist, AICP; Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1029 *for*
Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst—Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2012-93) Change in scope of Grant SG2010-079, Minneapolis Park &
Recreation Board
Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission District D: Jeffrey Lee

INTRODUCTION

On June 23, 2010 the Metropolitan Council approved a \$562,000 grant financed from the Fiscal Year 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB). The scope of the grant was:

"At Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park and at Above the Falls Regional Park, conduct a design competition to develop a next generation park master plan for the Minneapolis Riverfront Regional Park estimated to cost \$350,000 and complete initial planning and engineering documents for restoration and development of the Mill Ruins Park Headrace facilities in the Central Riverfront Regional Park estimated to cost \$212,000."

The MPRB has decided to include the Mill Ruins Park Headrace facilities in its own capital program and has requested to amend the Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study. These activities are consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. **(See Attachment 1: Letter from Jennifer Ringold, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, dated February 17, 2012)**

The Metropolitan Council must consider and approve the proposed change in scope of the grant. This staff report contains a review of this request under applicable terms of the grant agreement and recommends approving the change in scope of the grant.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute Section 473.315 authorizes the "Metropolitan Council with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any municipality, park district or county located wholly or partially within the metropolitan area to cover the cost, or any portion of the cost, of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the [*Regional Recreation Open Space*] Policy Plan".

ANALYSIS

Grant SG-2010-079 was funded with a portion of the FY 2011 Parks and Trails Fund appropriation under Laws of MN 2010, Chapter 172. The appropriation legislation requires the Metropolitan Council to disburse its appropriation among the 10 regional park agencies under a formula. The grant amount is based on that formula. Consequently, as long as the change in scope of the project is supporting a regional park or trail, the use of the appropriation is consistent with the legislation.

In this case, the changed grant scope would allow MPRB to use up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study. These activities are consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park.

In order to consider this request for a change in scope of the grant, Section 9.2 of the grant agreement states:

***9.2 Amendments.** Any amendment to this grant agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original grant contract, or their successors in office.*

The proposed change in scope of Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study is consistent with the conditions of section 9.2 of the grant agreement because:

1. MPRB has submitted a written statement to the Council describing the situation and giving reasons for the change in scope, as shown in **Attachment 1**.
2. The change in scope of Grant SG-2010-079 is consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park.

CONCLUSION

The proposed change in scope of Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study is consistent with applicable sections of the appropriation law that financed the grant (Laws of MN 2010, Chap. 172); the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park; and the conditions of section 9.2 of the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study.

Letter from Jennifer Ringold, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Administrative Offices
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227

Operations Center
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000

Phone
612-230-6400
Fax:
612-230-6500

www.minneapolisparks.org

February 17, 2012

In regards to: SG-2010-079

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst-Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Arne Stefferud:

I am writing to request a change in the scope of Grant SG-2010-079, funding from the Parks and Trails Fund of the Legacy Amendment.

The current scope for SG – 2010-079 reads:

At Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park and at Above the Falls Regional Park, conduct a design competition to develop a next generation park master plan for the Minneapolis Riverfront Regional Parks estimated to cost \$350,000, and complete initial planning and engineering for restoration and development of the Mill Ruins Park Headrace facility in the Central Riverfront Regional Park estimated to cost \$212,000.

Since the scope was submitted, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board approved allocating the funding previously specified for the Mill Ruins Headrace to the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park (CMRRP) within its capital program. Therefore, the MPRB would like to change the scope of this contract so that it can be used for trail improvements, parking lot improvements, landscaping and site furniture within the CMRRP as well as be eligible to fund a historic wall stabilization study for Mill Ruins.

The revised scope would read:

At Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park and at Above the Falls Regional Park, conduct a design competition to develop a next generation park master plan for the Minneapolis Riverfront Regional Parks estimated to cost \$350,000, and at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park complete trail, parking lot, and landscaping improvements, site furniture installation, and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study for up to \$212,000.

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We would like for this revised scope to include a start date of March 29, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer B. Ringold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer B. Ringold
Manager, Public Engagement and Citywide Planning

cc: Bruce Chamberlain, MPRB
Cliff Swenson, MPRB