

M Management Committee

Meeting date: May 14, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	December 5, 2007
Subject:	Regional Park Foundation Formation
District(s), Member(s):	All All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2007 Minnesota Laws Chapter 113, SF 1302
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Ann Beckman, Manager Regional Systems Planning and Growth Strategy
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Resolution (Res 2008-05) authorizing the formation of a Regional Parks Foundation to help acquire lands and other assets for public recreation and open space within the metropolitan area.

Background

The Metropolitan Council has been exploring the idea of forming a regional parks foundation for the past year. A grant was received from the McKnight Foundation to conduct a feasibility study in partnership with the Trust for Public Land. Legislative authorization was obtained by the Metropolitan Council to form the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. The purpose of the Regional Parks Foundation will be to assist governmental units to acquire land for regional parks and trails.

Rationale

- There are no policy issues relating to this resolution.

Funding

The Metropolitan Council received authorization from the state legislature to establish a regional park foundation for the purpose of soliciting private contributions for the acquisition of new regional park lands.

Pursuant to that legislation, the Council is authorized to provide some funding and other assistance to help create and establish the foundation, and is required to report back to the Legislature in 2009.

To date, the Council has spent \$51,000 on legal services to draft the articles of incorporation, by-laws and policies for the Foundation. The Council has also incurred expenses spent about \$42,000 on staff time, and miscellaneous expenses for the foundation.

If this action is approved, the Council proposes to contribute \$250,000 as a founding gift to the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. Other anticipated expenses in 2008-09 are:

\$25,000	web-site launch
\$15,000	postage and printing
<u>\$25,000</u>	contingencies
\$65,000	Subtotal

Additional staff time of \$92,000 is anticipated for the first two years of the park foundations operations. Staff time is already included in the Council budget.

Regional Park Foundation summary:

\$51,000	formation expenses
\$250,000	founding contribution
\$65,000	organizational expenses
<u>\$134,000</u>	staff and in-kind expenses
\$500,000	Subtotal

Remaining legislative authorization \$0

Known Support / Opposition

The Parks and Trail Council of Minnesota is a known supporter of the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities. Many of the parks implementing agencies are very supportive of the idea. There is no identified opposition to this initiative.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-05

FORMATION OF REGIONAL PARKS FOUNDATION OF THE TWIN CITIES

WHEREAS, the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, adopted by the Metropolitan Council June 29, 2005 (amended June 28, 2006), notes that the population of the metropolitan area is projected to increase by one million people by the year 2030 and states that this region should now “identify and preserve the last best natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities in the region for future generations”; and

WHEREAS, the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* identifies several strategies for accommodating the region’s projected growth, including the use of public-private collaborative partnerships to protect the region’s valuable and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* calls for the expansion of the regional park system from 52,600 acres to 70,000 acres by the year 2030, plans for a significantly expanded system of regional trails, and plans for four additional regional parks to complete the parks system after the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, public funds may not be sufficient to fund all of these planned acquisitions or meet the region’s future recreation open space needs, and significant private support for park acquisition and development efforts has been successfully demonstrated in similar park foundations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 2007 Minnesota Laws chapter 113 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to create a private non-profit tax-exempt foundation “to help acquire or finance the acquisition of land and other assets for public recreation and open space within the metropolitan area” and help “preserve and develop regional parks and related facilities”; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 legislation also authorizes the Metropolitan Council to “provide from its general fund up to \$500,000 to help create and establish the foundation,” and states that the use of Metropolitan Council funds and resources for these purposes is a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metropolitan Council finds that it is in the metropolitan area’s interest for the Metropolitan Council to provide funds and other resources to create and establish a regional parks foundation to help meet this region’s current and future recreation and open space needs and authorizes its Chair to incorporate and establish a private non-profit corporation, know as the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities, consistent with the authorizing legislation; and
2. That the Metropolitan Council authorizes up to \$500,000 of general fund revenues to help create and establish the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities; and

3. That the initial board of the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities shall be chaired by the Chair of the Metropolitan Council, shall include members of the general public, the Chair of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, a member of the Metropolitan Council appointed by the Chair, and representatives of conservation partner agencies, such as the Trust for Public Lands, and the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota; and
4. The purpose of the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities shall be to assist governmental units acquire land and related facilities for regional public parks and trails, and to act in furtherance of the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks and Open Space plan, as amended by the Metropolitan Council from time to time.
5. As required by the authorizing legislation, the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities shall comply with all laws that apply to the Metropolitan Council.
6. Pursuant to the authorizing legislation, the Metropolitan Council shall report on the creation and establishment of the foundation to the appropriate legislative committees on or before January 15, 2009.

Adopted on May 28, 2008

Peter Bell
Chair

Pat Curtiss
Recording Secretary