

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
May 8, 2007

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Glen Skovholt, Richard Jabs, Gary Botzek, Emily Barbeau, Lars Erdahl, Michael Rainville, Daniel Shlaferman, Robert Wicklund

ABSENT: Barb Schmidt, Natalie Steffen, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Skovholt called the special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 5:12 p.m. on May 8, 2007.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wicklund motioned to approve the May 8, 2007 agenda. Commissioner Rainville seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to Interested Persons to Address the Commission on Matters Not on the Agenda (Each speaker is limited to a five-minute presentation.)

None.

BUSINESS:

Reconsideration of Park Agency share for 2008-13 Regional Parks CIP - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

Skovholt stated that the purpose of this meeting is to reconsider action taken at the April 10, 2007 MPOSC meeting. He stated that the old CIP formula wasn't easy to understand and there wasn't any certainty that an agency's allocation would match what was finally approved.

Skovholt discussed source of funding outside of the CIP - the Acquisition Opportunity Fund and noted that it needs to be looked at as well.

Commissioner Barbeau motioned and Commissioner Botzek seconded to reconsider the motion that was approved on April 10, 2007. The motion carried.

Commissioner Barbeau motioned and Commissioner Rainville seconded to recommend:

1. That the Metropolitan Council prepare a 2008-13 regional parks CIP that divides the amount proposed for each regional park agency by weighting the most recent population data for that park agency by 70% and by weighting the percentage of non-local visits that agency hosted from the 1998-99 parks visitor study by 30%.
2. That the regional park agencies submit a prioritized list of funding requests for projects for the 2008-13 parks CIP within the amount proposed for that agency as determined by the formula in recommendation 1. Funding requests for projects from each agency's prioritized list must be consistent with Metropolitan Council approved master plans, and in the case of reimbursement requests the Council must have approved consideration of the reimbursement in a former action of the Council. If those funding requests for projects are not consistent with a Council approved master plan or past Council action on a reimbursement, the Council will return the list to the agency for re-submittal of a new list.
3. That appropriations of State funds and matching Metropolitan Council bonds for the 2008-13 parks CIP be granted among the park agencies as determined from the formula in recommendation 1, and that the agencies be required to spend the grants on the Council approved prioritized list of CIP projects. If the CIP

funding request is not fully funded the park agency must spend its grant on projects in priority order of the CIP list of projects for that agency.

Mike Kimble, Minneapolis Park and Recreation passed out draft recommendations with suggested alternative language.

Beckman stated that she was uncomfortable with adding language without our legal staff looking at it first.

Wicklund stated that he felt the recommended language from staff was understandable and stated that the language needs to be clear. He stated he felt more comfortable with the staff's recommended language.

Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks stated that he feels emerging agencies are not on the 'same playing field' as established agencies and feels a per capita formula is clear.

Skovholt suggested that the Acquisition Opportunity Fund is also a good source of funding for emerging agencies.

Erdahl asked if we want language that says we will revisit this in two years. He reminded the group that this is the Metropolitan Parks and 'Open Space' Commission. He stated that there needs to be dollars for conservation and felt that the 70/30 formula may weight more for parks and recreation and less for open space.

Skovholt asked what population data will be used. Stefferud stated that the 2005 population data will be used.

Skovholt pointed out that new data in two years will be available and this issue can be revisited.

Shlaferman stated that he would like it noted in the discussion that Three Rivers Park District and Scott County will receive a reduction with the new formula. Commission members agreed.

Wicklund clarified that the Commission has always revisited the formula, although it may not have been changed. Stefferud responded yes, that the law requires us to do a comprehensive review and periodically update the CIP and the parks policy plan and in that process there is consideration of the formula for the CIP.

With no further discussion, **the motion carried.**

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Staff: None

Commissioners: None

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN in Chambers (**Note room change**).

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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