

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

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

**August 7, 2007**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Glen Skovholt, Barb Schmidt, Lars Erdahl, Michael Rainville, Gary Botzek, Emily Barbeau, Robert Wicklund

**ABSENT:** Richard Jabs, Daniel Shlaferman, Natalie Steffen, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Skovholt called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:06 p.m. on August 7, 2007.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Botzek motioned to approve the August 7, 2007 agenda and the July 10, 2007 minutes. Commissioner Wicklund 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:**

**Land Exchange Request of 2.89 Acres to Replace 1.48 Acres on Nicollet Island in Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**  
Skovholt began by stating that the issue before this Commission is regarding the land exchange not for or against the proposed stadium. He asked that those wishing to make comments, limit their comments to the land exchange. He acknowledge that this would be the only forum before the Parks Commission for citizens to address any broader issues and therefore did state that those wishing to speak may do so but that he hoped it would be done expeditiously and with a minimum of repetition.

Steffered gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the request of the MPRB for the Metropolitan Council (Council) to remove the restrictive covenant on the 1.48-acre parcel on Nicollet Island in Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park in exchange for obtaining 2.89-acres Mississippi river frontage in the adjacent Above the Falls Regional Park and placing a restrictive covenant on it.

Skovholt asked for questions/comments from Commissioners. Hearing none from members of the Commission, Skovholt explained that this Commission is an advisory body to the Council and noted that the Council will make the final decision.

Rainville noted for the record that he is an alumni of DeLaSalle High School as well as a trustee. He does not receive any financial reimbursement from DeLaSalle and does not have a conflict of interest. He was offered by one of the Park Board Commissioners to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the field study, but declined, however he did attend many of those meetings as possible to be informed of the issues.

The following persons spoke in opposition to the proposed land exchange:

1. Paul Labovitz, Superintendent of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
2. Irene Jones, Friends of the Mississippi River (provided handout: letter dated August 7, 2007 to Glen Skovholt from Irene Jones)

3. Bonnie McDonald, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and National Trust for Historic Preservation (provided handout: letter dated Aug. 6, 2007 to Glen Skovholt from Christina Morris)
4. State Representative Phyllis Kahn (provided handout: letter dated Aug. 6, 2007 to Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission from State Representative Kahn)
5. Edna Burzaitis, Sierra Club (provided handout: photo/map "Location of Illegal DeLaSalle Everyday School Parking" and provided handout: photo "28 Cars in a 15 Space Lot—Ordinary School Day")
6. Frank Jossi, Co-Chair of the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the Sierra Club
7. Arlene Fried, Minneapolis Park Watch
8. Lisa Hondros, Friends of the Mississippi Riverfront (provided handout: February 16, 2007 email from Arne Stefferud to Ann Beckman and provided handout: January 29, 2005 letter to Whom it May Concern from P. Victor Grambsch)

The following persons spoke at the meeting in support of the proposed land exchange:

1. Roger Scherer, Metropolitan Council District 1
2. Eric Galatz, attorney representing DeLaSalle High School
3. John Derus, member of DeLaSalle Board of Trustees
4. Christine Vickin, parent of DeLaSalle student
5. Nicki Carlson, parent of DeLaSalle student
6. Judy Valsik, parent of DeLaSalle student

After comments and discussion of the Commission, Commissioner Rainville moved and it was seconded by Wicklund

- (1) That the Metropolitan Council release the restrictive covenant on the 1.48-acre Grove Street Nicollet Island parcel in exchange for the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board obtaining title and placing a restrictive covenant on the 2.89-acre West River Road property as shown on **Figure 1**.
- (2) That the Metropolitan Council request the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to implement the land exchange by March 1, 2008 so the restrictive covenant violation is remedied in a timely manner.

Chair Skovholt polled members who voted as follows:

Botzek – Yes  
 Wicklund – No  
 Schmidt – No  
 Barbeau – No  
 Rainville – Yes  
 Erdahl – Yes  
 Skovholt – No

**The motion failed on a vote of 4 against and 3 in favor.**

Skovholt stated that this will go to the Community Development Committee on 8/20/07 and to the Metropolitan Council on 8/22/07.

**Change in Scope of Grant SG-06-106 to Include Funding for Trail Project in Como Regional Park and Request for Reimbursement Consideration in Future Regional Parks CIP for Portion of Trail Project Funding, City of St. Paul - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferdud gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the change in the scope of the grant and discussed staff's recommendations.

Commissioner Barbeau motioned and it was seconded by Botzek that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the request to consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul up to \$148,797.19 in the 2008-09 regional parks capital improvement program for partially financing the redevelopment of trails and new trail construction in Como Regional Park as described in Attachment 1. 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.
2. Authorize a change in scope of Grant SG-2006-106 that allows up to \$147,202.81 to be spent for the Como Regional Park trail project referenced in recommendation 1 and \$65,797.19 to be spent for a reimbursement on the East Lakeshore Drive rehabilitation project in Como Regional Park.

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

**Tony Schmidt Regional Park Master Plan, Ramsey County - Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner-Parks**

Jan Youngquist gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the development master plan for Tony Schmidt Regional Park submitted by Ramsey County. She noted that the greatest demand for the park is completion of the trail system.

Commissioner Botzek motioned and Wicklund seconded that the Metropolitan Council approve the Tony Schmidt Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 20035-1).

Botzek noted that there was great citizen involvement in the development of this master plan.

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

Skovholt had Greg Mack, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Director introduced Ken Wehrle, Director of Planning (who took Larry Holmberg's place).

**Murphy-Hanrehan Park Development Master Plan Update, Three Rivers Park District - Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner-Parks**

Skovholt stated that this agenda item will be put on the September 11, 2007 agenda.

**REPORTS**

Chair: None.

Staff: None.

Commissioners: None

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Elm Creek Park Reserve Chalet (\*note the date/location change).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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