

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

September 8, 2008

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Glen Skovholt, Chair, Barb Schmidt, Gary Botzek, Richard Jabs, Bob Moeller

ABSENT: Robert Wicklund, Daniel Shlaferman, Dan Wolter, 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 4:02 p.m. on September 8, 2008.

Jan Youngquist called attention to the new Regional Parks Map which was recently updated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Schmidt motioned and Commissioner Botzek seconded to approve the September 8, 2008 Agenda and the August 5, 2008 Minutes.

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:

2008-171 - Request to broaden scope of Three River Park District's 2008-09 CIP allocation for additional capital improvements at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd gave background on the request from Three Rivers Park District. The Park District's allocation in the 2008-09 Metro Parks CIP is \$3,634,000 for rehabilitation of the trails, parking lots and roads in Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. Due to lower than expected bids on this project, the Park District wants to spend the balance of this grant (\$394,000) on replacement of a large-scale play area at the park reserve. This additional work is consistent with the Council-approved master plan for Lake Rebecca Park Reserve and does not change the grant amount authorized by the Council on May 28, but only broadens the scope of what the grant will finance.

It was moved by Commissioner Jabs and seconded by Commissioner Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorizes a change in the scope of the 2008-09 CIP allocation to Three Rivers Park District to allow the \$3,634,000 allocation to be used for rehabilitation of roads, parking lots, trails and the play area at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve.

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

2008-243 - Revising scope of two capital grants to partially finance development at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature and in turn reduce future Metro Council CIP reimbursement eligibility amount, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd gave background on Three Rivers Park District's request to revise the scope of two capital grants for Noerenberg Gardens Visitor Center that have combined un-obligated balances of \$1,531,000. These grants were approved in 2006 as partial reimbursement of land acquisition for Silverwood Special Recreation Feature (SRF).

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission September 8, 2008

Page 1

Due to design and operational limitations at Noerenberg Gardens, the Park District has put the visitor center project on hold in order to further determine what would be the optimal facility for that location.

The Park District has asked that the scope of these grants be amended to allow the balances in each to be used for a portion of the \$12,056,000 development at Silverwood SRF. On April 23, 2008 the Metropolitan Council approved the development plans for Silverwood and said it would consider reimbursing the Park District up to \$12,056,000 in future capital improvement programs for the park's development. Expanding the scope of these 2 grants to allow the combined un-obligated balances of \$1,531,000 to be used for development at Silverwood would reduce the Council's potential future reimbursement amount as well as efficiently use the grants awarded to the Park District for regional park capital projects.

Schmidt asked for further explanation regarding the design and operational limitations on building the visitor center. Stefferud stated that there were restrictions on the property as part of the donation of the gardens to the Park District and the design of the visitor's center would not fall within the limitations.

Schmidt asked what the immediate development plans for Silverwood SRF are. Stefferud noted that a master plan was approved last spring, but he was not sure what the money would be used for. The approved plan included an outdoor amphitheater, trails, and visitor center.

Skovholt confirmed that no dollars would be left for development at Noerenberg and noted that they may have to amend their master plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Botzek and seconded by Commissioner Jobs to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a change in the scope of grants SG-2006-134 and SG-2006-172 to be used to partially finance development at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature (SRF). This change in scope reduces the reimbursement amount the Metropolitan Council would consider for Silverwood SRF development it approved on April 23, 2008 by \$1,531,000 to a new amount of \$10,525,000.

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

2008-227 - Request for CIP reimbursement consideration for match to Federal trail construction grant of Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud gave background on Carver County's request that the Metro Council consider reimbursing the County up to \$1,072,000 in future regional parks CIPs. This amount is a match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to develop that portion of Dakota Rail Regional Trail in Carver County.

Botzek asked for more details about the federal grant. Stefferud stated that it is part of the Omnibus Transportation Bill and noted that the application process goes through the Transportation Advisory Board and is an ongoing program.

Skovholt asked what the objective of the federal grant program is. Stefferud stated that it focuses on bicycle and pedestrian trails that enhance transportation systems.

It was moved by Commissioner Moeller and seconded by Commissioner Schmidt to recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in future regional parks capital improvement programs. 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.

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

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Staff: Beckman noted that information on the Park Foundation will be coming in the next couple of months regarding the formation, their mission, and membership.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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