

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

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

December 1, 2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuck Haas, Billy Dinkel, Bob Moeller, Tom Gamec, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

ABSENT: Richard Jabs, Daniel Shlaferman, Barb Schmidt

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:06 p.m. on December 1, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Moeller motioned and Commissioner Gamec seconded to approve the December 1, 2009 Agenda and the November 5, 2009 Minutes. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to interested persons to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda (each speaker is limited to five-minute presentation).

None.

BUSINESS

Information Item: Metropolitan Regional Parks System Slide Show

Beckman stated that the Council's Communications staff put together an informational slide show for the Council's website. The slide show was shown for the Commission's benefit. This will be on the website soon.

(2009-XXX) Amendment to Lilydale/Harriet Island Regional Park Master Plan Regarding Development at Lilydale Portion of Park, City of St. Paul (Referral Number 50001-1) - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud discussed the amendment submitted by the City of St. Paul to the Lilydale/Harriet Island Regional Park master plan regarding development at Lilydale portion of the park. Stefferud summarized the amended plan deleted overnight camping plus a swimming beach on Pickerel Lake and proposes

instead adding group picnic areas overlooking the lake, wildlife viewing platforms and a fishing pier to the lake, plus an off-leash dog park.

Steffered stated that the estimated development costs to implement the master plan are \$13.7 million.

Gamec asked if the 65 proposed spaces for parking would be enough with the amphitheater and if there was planned overflow parking. Stefferud responded that it is sized correctly for what is proposed. He stated that large scale events would not be held here but instead at Harriet Island.

Wulff asked if the storm water treatment ponding improvements would be eligible for regional park funds when 90% of the water comes from nearby residential areas. Stefferud responded that there would be some capital dollars used to help fund this but watershed district money would probably be the primary revenue used.

Dinkel asked why we are protecting the caves. Stefferud responded that it is a safety measure for park users. He also noted that they are home to many bats.

Haas clarified that this Commission is approving the master plan amendment only at this time and not funding for proposed improvements. Stefferud agreed and noted that future funding requests would be done through the CIP process.

It was motioned by Commissioner Moeller and seconded by Commissioner Gamec to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the amendment to Lilydale/Harriet Island Regional Park master plan regarding development at Lilydale portion of park, City of St. Paul (Referral Number 50001-1). **The motion carried.**

(2009-XXX) Restrictive Covenant Exchange – Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, Anoka County – Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner-Parks

Youngquist discussed Anoka County's request for an exchange of a restrictive covenant on 2.7 acres of wetland ponds at the Chomonix Golf Course portion of Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park and in exchange, allow a restrictive covenant to be placed on 10 acres located along the southern edge of Rice Lake, which is also within the park reserve.

Youngquist provided background on the original agreement and restrictive covenant between the Metropolitan Council and Anoka County.

Youngquist discussed the involvement of the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources as they oversee the wetland banking program.

Youngquist discussed the Park Policy Plan evaluation factors for a restrictive covenant exchange.

It was motioned by Commissioner Gamec and seconded by Commissioner Moeller to recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the restrictive covenant on 2.7 acres of wetlands depicted in Attachment 1 and described in Attachment 2, in exchange for Anoka County placing a restrictive covenant on the 10 acre property shown in Attachment 5 and described in Attachment 6.

Wulff asked how much of the rest of the park is under restrictive covenants. Youngquist stated that most of it is protected.

Youngquist reviewed the purpose of master plans and how they protect land and guide future land use for in-holdings.

The motion carried.

REPORTS

Chair: None.

Commissioners: None.

Council Liaison: Wulff stated that the interview have been conducted for one of the vacant positions and the appointment of a new Commissioner will be made at the December 9, 2009 Council Meeting.

Staff: None.

NEXT MEETING

The next MPOSC Meeting has been moved to January 7, 2009 due to a conflict for the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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