

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

March 1, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Haas, Barb Schmidt, Doug Baines, Tom Gamec, Jeff Lee, Daniel Shlaferman, Richard Jabs, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

ABSENT: Bob Moeller

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:03p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Gamec motioned and Commissioner Lee seconded to approve the March 1, 2011 Agenda and the January 6, 2011 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION:

None.

BUSINESS

Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan Amendment, Anoka County - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst-Parks

Youngquist gave a presentation outlining the request from Anoka County for approval of the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan. She discussed the development concept including five phases and their estimated development costs. Youngquist also described citizen participation and public awareness.

Gamec asked about commercial development along Highway 10 that he had heard about in the past. John Vondelinde, Anoka County Parks stated that there is none being discussed at this time, nor has there been any over the past five years that he is aware of.

Baines asked about camping on Cloquet Island that had been discussed at one time. Vondelinde stated that the plan is to leave it in its natural condition with some possible restoration, but that's it. He would anticipate canoers, kayakers, etc. stopping on the island, but there would not be any camping allowed.

Commissioner Baines motioned and it was seconded by Commissioner Gamec to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 50004-1).
2. Require that Anoka County submit a negotiated cost sharing agreement related to the development of the pedestrian overpass described in Phase 5 of the master plan to the Metropolitan Council prior to seeking regional parks funding for the project, in order for the Council to determine the eligible costs for regional funding.

3. Advise Anoka County to work with the City of Ramsey to ensure that the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and Wild and Scenic River programs and standards are implemented during the park development phases.

With no further discussion, Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Amend scope of Grant SG-2009-039 and Grant SG-2009-040 financed with FY 2010 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Steffered discussed two grants funded from FY2010 Parks and Trails Fund appropriations. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is asking that the scope of the grants be amended so that proceeds can be fully utilized before they expire on June 30, 2011.

Steffered described the two grants as well as the revisions proposed (described in the memorandum provided) and the request that the effective date of the grant amendments be as of 2/16/11.

Schmidt asked why the picnic shelter is being put on hold. Jennifer Ringold, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee is not as supportive of this and therefore they're waiting and instead doing projects that are more strongly supported at this time.

Wulff commented on the proposed effective date and noted that it is an important point with the new Council coming on board causing postponed meeting dates and Council action.

Commissioner Baines made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Jobs to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to grants SG-2009-039 and SG-2009-040 which changes the scope of the grants as described in this memorandum, and to approve the effective date of the grant amendment as February 16, 2011.

With no further discussion, Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Amend scope of Grant SG-2008-055 and Future CIP Reimbursement Request for Como Pool Replacement Project, City of St. Paul - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Steffered discussed the request from the City of St. Paul to amend the scope of a grant to cover escalated costs beyond the project's current budget and also for a future CIP reimbursement request for Como Pool replacement project.

Baines clarified that a future CIP doesn't encumber any money at this time. Stefferud stated that is correct.

Commissioner Baines made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize an amendment to grant SG-2008-055 to allow up to \$240,567 to be used to partially fund replacement of the Como Park Pool, which includes design and construction of a new state of the art aquatics facility at the site of the former pool, plus constructing new parking area to meet current environmental standards.
2. Consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$5,280,000 for City bond funding to partially finance replacement of the Como Park Pool,

which includes design and construction of a new state of the art aquatics facility at the site of the former pool, plus constructing new parking area to meet current environmental standards. 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, Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

REPORTS

- **Chair** – None.
- **Commissioners** – None.
- **Staff** – Beckman reported that Council members are to be named March 2. This group shall continue to serve until otherwise appointed.

Stefferdud gave a brief report for the Legislature noting that not much is going on as they are doing budget overviews.

NEXT MEETING

April 5, 2011 at 4:00pm in Robert Room LLA.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Executive Assistant
Community Development