

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

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

**January 6, 2011**

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

**ABSENT:** Billy Dinkel

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Commissioner Baines motioned and Commissioner Shlaferman seconded to approve the January 6, 2011 Agenda and the December 7, 2010 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION:**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Richard Jabs as Vice-Chair to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission – Charles Haas, Chair**

Chair Haas stated that in accordance with the terms of the MPOSC bylaws, he was appointing Richard Jabs and Vice-Chair subject to approval by the Commission. His term would commence on January 6, 2011.

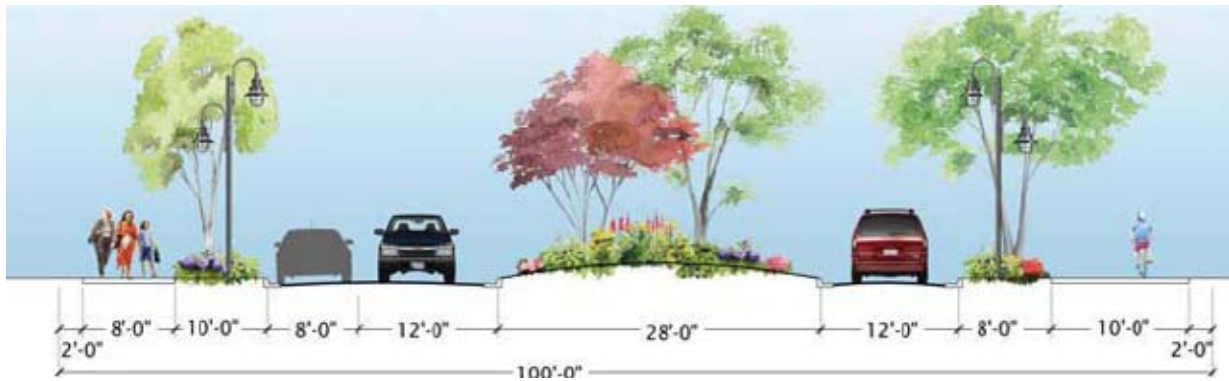
It was motioned by Schmidt and seconded by Baines to recommend that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approve the appointment of Richard Jabs as the Commission's Vice-Chair for 2011. **The motion carried.**

**Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail Master Plan, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Continuation from December 7 MPOSC Meeting – Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner-Parks**

Youngquist reviewed discussion from the last meeting where additional language was requested. Youngquist then described alternative language proposing two options for recommendation.

**Option A**—Future regional parks funding for land acquisition should be related to the proportion of the site used for the regional trail, based on a strip of right-of-way not to exceed a width of 68 feet.

The master plan included a typical cross-section for a 100 foot right-of-way, assuming that the regional trail would parallel the parkway. This cross-section is depicted on the following graphic:



Within this 100 foot ROW, 32 feet is dedicated to the roadway—there are two 12 foot travel lanes and an 8 foot wide parking lane. There are separate pedestrian and biking trails, which, along with the associated greenspace, comprise 68 feet of the corridor.

**Option B**—Future regional parks funding for land acquisition should be related to the proportion of the site used for the regional trail, based on a strip of right-of-way not to exceed a width of 50 feet.

Youngquist reviewed the staff’s recommendation and noted that the option chosen by the committee today could be crafted into this recommendation and forwarded on to the Council for approval.

Youngquist noted that there may not be final plans for this trail. This is to set the stage for land acquisition.

Wulff clarified that this area being discussed will be a local park and that the ‘parkway’ is unique, as they allow truck traffic. She stated that the question is how much of the 100 foot strip should be paid for with park funds and how much should be paid for out of transportation funds.

Nick Eoloff, Project Manager from the Minneapolis Park Board clarified that the segment within the local park will not have truck traffic.

Moeller asked what staff’s recommendation is – Option A or B? Youngquist stated that this is to be decided by the commission. Beckman stated the either option is viable. She noted that she looks to the implementing agencies because they are the ones with the expertise in this. She noted that she is also sensitive to Council Member Wulff’s concern regarding sources of funding. Moeller asked which of the two options is preferred by the implementing agencies. Beckman stated Option A.

Baines discussed property owned by the University of Minnesota just west of this area and asked why we’re not partnering with them. Youngquist responded that people from University were part of the Technical Advisory Committee and that part of the park land identified is owned by the University, however, the area being looked at for the Regional Trail is not part of the University’s property.

Eoloff stated that the University has been an active partner in the planning stages and the Minneapolis Park Board would be willing to work with them if the opportunity arises.

Moeller motioned to approve the following recommendation and include language provided in Option A. It was seconded by Baines. Recommendation is as follows:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Grand Rounds Missing Link Master Plan and Addenda 1-2 (Referral No. 20523-1).
2. Require that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board submit an updated master plan with revised acquisition and development costs to the Metropolitan Council once the location of the railroad yard bridge has been selected and the trail route through the Southeast Minneapolis Industrial Area (SEMI) has been determined.
3. Require that prior to development of the regional trail and associated parkway, final plans be submitted to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment to ensure the integrity of the regional interceptor system.
4. Require that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board submit the results of Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment on parcels proposed to be acquired using regional parks funding. If the Metropolitan Council concludes that the land should be added to the regional park system and will help finance its acquisition, this does not imply that the Council will grant park funds to clean up the site. Funding for environmental cleanup will be subject the criteria outlined in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
5. Advise the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to work closely with the Metropolitan Council during implementation of the master plan to coordinate safe crossings and connections to the Central Corridor LRT and to accommodate future transit routes.
6. Advise the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board that future regional parks funding for land acquisition should be proportionate to the area of the site used for the regional trail, based on a strip of right-of-way not to exceed a width of 68 feet.

Chair Haas, with no more discussion called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment for 2 Regional Park Grants in Anoka County, 1 Regional Park Grant in the City of Bloomington and 5 Regional Park and Trail Grants in Dakota County – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst**

Stefferd discussed 'housekeeping' items to approve 8 separate grant agreements from 3 separate agencies – Anoka County, City of Bloomington, and Dakota County. He described the requests as outlined in the staff report.

Baines clarified, on projects that we're taking money away from, will the quality of construction be the same. Stefferud said yes and explained the changes in what is being done that will result in leftover dollars.

Baines asked if we are funding more engineering and analysis rather than actual physical construction. Stefferud stated yes and noted that in this case where Federal dollars are being sought (in a match), those dollars can only be used for trail construction and not for design engineering at all. He noted that there is a lot of design and engineering work needed in order to meet the Federal construction standards (that we need to pay for) and therefore in those cases we are funding design and engineer work that is required in order to get the Federal dollars.

Baines stated that if we've approved a trail, he does not want to see those dollars shifted to pay for design and engineering rather than building the trail. Stefferud explained that in this case the effort is to do as

much as was originally intended. He stated that there is quite a bit of Federal money going into the Mississippi River Regional Trail that they do not want to lose those 'matching' dollars.

Lee asked if these changes are being deferred or removed. Stefferud deferred to Steve Sullivan, Dakota County. Sullivan discussed protecting Federal dollars and stated other projects being deferred will come back in a future CIP.

Commissioner Jabs motioned to approve the recommendation, and it was seconded by Commissioner Lee that the Metropolitan Council approves the following grant amendments:

1. Change in scope of grant SG-2008-044 (\$400,000) from improving a trailhead at Big Rivers Regional Trail to funding general design, construction and construction administration for miscellaneous Mississippi River Regional Trail improvements and extend the grant's duration to December 31, 2012.
2. Change in scope of grant SG-2010-032 (\$250,000) from constructing a Cannon River access site at Miesville Ravine Park Reserve to providing match to a \$1 million Federal grant for design, construction and construction administration for the Rosemount section of the Mississippi River Regional Trail.
3. Change in scope of grant SG-2010-022 (\$152,000) from constructing sustainable trails in Lebanon Hills Regional Park to design, construction and construction administration of a parking area, restroom building and miscellaneous site improvements at the mountain bike facility in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. This augments a \$429,000 grant for this project (SG-2008-045).
4. Approve a 2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment and applicable grant amendments or new grant agreements which:
  - a) Decreases grant SG-2010-073 by \$42,000 for a new total of \$183,000 effective October 1, 2010.
  - b) Adds \$20,000 to grant SG-2010-074 for a new total of \$145,000 effective October 1, 2010.
  - c) Adds \$22,000 to grant SG-2010-075 for a new total of \$622,000 effective October 1, 2010.
  - d) Decreases grant SG-2010-25 by \$550,000 for a new total of \$300,000. The reduced grant would finance final design and construction of Echo Point improvements including public pier, picnic area, lakeshore trail, access drive and parking lot.
  - e) Approve a new grant of \$550,000 to Dakota County to provide match to a \$1 million federal grant to design, construct and provide construction administration for the Rosemount section of the Mississippi River Regional Trail.
  - f) Decreases grant SG-2010-064 by \$150,000 for a new total of \$153,000.
  - g) Approve a new grant to Dakota County of \$150,000 for design, construction and construction administration for parking, event area and miscellaneous site improvements at the Lebanon Hills Regional Park visitor center.

## **REPORTS**

- **Chair** – Shared an article, from the Parks and Recreation magazine from the National Parks Association regarding yellow ribbon network. He then asked the implementing agencies to share information they may be doing to support our troops so that he may put it on the National Guard website.
- **Commissioners** – None.
- **Staff** – None.

## **NEXT MEETING**

February 1, 2011 at 4:00pm in Robert Room LLA.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Executive Assistant  
Community Development