

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

MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

October 4, 2011

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Haas, Daniel Shlaferman, Seyon Nyanwleh, Emily Johnson Piper, Carrie Wasley, Jeff Lee, Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

ABSENT: Barb Schmidt, Bob Moeller

Note: Tom Gamec has resigned.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Jeffery Lee, Commissioner (Reappointment) - term will expire January 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:03p.m. Thursday, October 4, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Wasley motioned and Commissioner Shlaferman seconded to approve the October 4, 2011 Agenda and the September 13, 2011 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION:

None.

BUSINESS

Reimbursement Consideration Request for Phase 2 Restoration of Como Regional Park Lily Pond, City of St. Paul - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd discussed the request from the City of St. Paul for the Council to consider reimbursing them for phase 2 restoration of Como Regional Park Lily Pond.

Wasley noted the dire need for repairs to the ponds.

It was motioned by Wasley and seconded by Piper to recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing the City of St. Paul in future regional parks capital improvement programs up to \$50,000 for City funding to finance Phase 2 of the Lily Pond restoration at Como Regional Park. 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.

Without further discussion, Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Expand scope and duration of Grant SG-2010-078, Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd discussed the request from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to change the scope of a grant to allow up to \$102,000 of the \$600,000 grant to match a \$510,000 Federal grant to rehabilitate and

widen 1,600 lineal feet of a trail along Cedar Lake Parkway and also to extend the grant agreement 18 months to March 31, 2014.

Piper asked why they are not using the full \$600,000 on Brownie Lake. Jennifer Ringold, Mpls Parks explained how these projects will be combined and both will be able to be completed.

Piper asked how MPRB can be sure they will see a savings on the Brownie Lakes projects. Ringold noted that they are not to detailed design yet and therefore there will be a combined cost savings in the combined design phase. She explained that it was initially looked at as two separate projects but when it became obvious they could get a Federal grant, it made sense to match the two projects together.

Lee noted that this is one of the worst pieces of trails in the system. Piper agreed and stated she is concerned that the cost savings can be assured so that both projects will be completed.

Nyanwleh asked if it is possible to see projected budgets before approving projects. His concern is that dollars being left over could become a pattern. Stefferud explained that staff tries to provide enough information regarding projects prior to meetings and explained that we are not expanding the amount of the grant – they are just doing more with it.

Wulff stated it would be helpful to have more maps. She clarified that each agency is allocated a set amount each year based on a formula. She noted that having them move money around to get more done is a good thing.

Haas summarized what MPRB is doing by expanding the scope of design. They are doing more with dollars while also meeting the match required by federal dollars.

Nyanwleh stated his concern with not seeing what he is approving. He also shared his concern that if money is awarded and not all used that another agency/project may not have gone forward could have. Wulff explained that the ‘pool’ of money is divided based on a formula and that monies awarded to each agency are for that agency only. Haas suggested that Stefferud meet with Nyanwleh to help him understand the allocation process.

Piper asked for clarification if the Metropolitan Council can recoup any grant dollars not spent by an agency. Haas explained that each agency is appropriated a dollar amount. If they do not spend it, another agency cannot get it. He noted that agencies have never been appropriated more money than they can use.

Wulff suggested having finance people come in and explain the Metropolitan Council’s limitations on appropriations.

Haas noted that staff gives us a recommendation on whether a project meets all requirements outline in the Parks Policy Plan. Schlaferman pointed out the master planning process that each park/trail goes through.

It was motioned by Lee and seconded by Piper to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize the following underlined amendments to Grant SG-2010-078:

Section 1.3 Expiration date: March 31, 2014, or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first.

Section 2. Grantees Duties or Grant Project:

Up to \$498,000 of Grant SG-2010-078 may be used at Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, to implement Brownie Lake Master Plan which includes development of up to one mile of trail and a pedestrian bridge. Plan includes such related items as lighting, signage, plantings, boating and fishing facilities, an archery area, steps and railings, power, slope stabilization, drainage structures, regulatory requirements, engineering, public process, project management, and investigations. Up to \$102,000 of Grant SG-2010-078 may be used for design and engineering costs to match a \$510,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement Act grant (#TE 09-15) to rehabilitate and widen 1,600 lineal feet of trail along Cedar Lake Parkway.

Section 8. Authorized Representative

The Grantee's Authorized Representative is:

Name: Deborah Bartels

Mailing Address: Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Phone: (612) 230-6438

Email: dbartels@minneapolisparcs.org

INFORMATION ITEM

Asian Carp and impact on Mississippi River-Presentation by John Anfinson, National Park Service
Anfinson gave a presentation regarding the threat, the urgency and what they're trying to do about it. He discussed the ecosystem, economic and recreational concerns as well as the current efforts and draft action plan.

Grants financed with 2011 State Bond appropriation of \$5 million and matching \$3.334 million Metro Council bonds and Scott County grant financed from FY 2012 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud gave a presentation going over memorandum which provided a summary of how funds will be used under the requirements of the law.

Stefferud discussed the grants described in his memorandum that were considered by the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Committee on October 3 as part of the Council's fourth quarter amendment to the 2011 Unified Capital Budget. He specifically discussed an amendment involving Anoka County and Three Rivers Park District, where Anoka County is proposing to acquire 230 acres of land formerly owned by Three Rivers Park District and leased to Anoka County. Wulff discussed concerns with using regional money to buy land already in the regional park system. Wasley agreed with Wulff.

Lee asked if there was Metropolitan Council dollars used in the original acquisition. Stefferud stated there was not.

Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District gave background of the land acquisition in the mid-1960's prior to the creation of the regional park system. He stated there was a major dam renovation in 1994. At that time, Three Rivers agreed to sell the property to Anoka County and have a contractual agreement to lease to purchase. He noted that although the price is around \$700,000 it has been reduced because of improvements made to the dam by Anoka County to \$350,000.

John Vondelinde, Anoka County described precedence set by the Metropolitan Council whereas they have purchased land from another public agency.

REPORTS

- **Chair** – None.
- **Commissioners** – None.
- **Staff** – None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be November 1, 2011 beginning at 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Executive Assistant
Community Development