

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

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

**July 19, 2011**

**TOUR:** Commission members present enjoyed a tour of Dakota Rail Regional Trail prior to the business meeting. After the business meeting a tour of Gale Woods Farm was conducted.

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

**ABSENT:** Tom Gamec

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:05p.m. Thursday, July 19, 2011.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS**

We were unable to swear in new members at this time. This will be done at the next meeting in September. Introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Commissioner Moeller motioned and Commissioner Lee seconded to approve the July 19, 2011 Agenda and the June 7, 2011 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION:**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**Orientation on Metropolitan Regional Park System and Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, Parks**

Stefferud gave an orientation for new members discussing the following:

- 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan and the update process
- The Regional Park implementing agencies and their role
- Regional Parks, Park Reserves, Regional Trails, and Special Recreation Features and their master plans
- Newest Regional Park Facilities
- Regional Park visit counts
- The role of MPOSC
- Regional Park Finance 101

**Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan, City of St. Paul – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, Parks**

Stefferud discussed a master plan amendment submitted by the City of St. Paul for Indian Mounds Regional Park for review by the Metropolitan Council. This is an update to the 1981 master plan.

Nyanwleh asked why basketball courts are not financed with regional/state dollars. Stefferud explained that they are considered to be 'local use' entities and not regional and therefore are not eligible for funding. Nyanwleh then asked what the difference was with disc golf courses that are a part of the regional system receiving funding. Stefferud explained the Council's role in providing outdoor amenities and stated that disc golf attracts groups from outside the region and are often associated with picnic use. Wulff added that people can find basketball courts everywhere, whereas, disc golf courses are more sparse and attract regional visitors.

It was motioned by Lee and seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan Amendment (Referral No. 50010-1).
2. Request the City of St. Paul to submit plans for the following park improvements to Scott Denz at MCES for review: 1) the new paved loop trail located just north of Warner Road; and 2) the restroom/shelter facility at Carver's Cave overlook parking lot.

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

**Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant to acquire permanent easement on 1.4 acre Doebber parcel for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County – Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, Parks**

Stefferud outlined a request from Dakota County for a Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant to help finance the acquisition and related costs for a permanent conservation easement on 1.4 acres in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The grant request is \$17,000.

Lee asked if these are buildable properties. Stefferud stated that are not.

Piper asked why we are buying these individually. Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks described the boundary of the master plan and noted that these are inholdings. He stated that they have different owners and therefore have to be handled individually.

Wulff questioned if \$2,800 was an average cost for appraisals. Sullivan stated that they are usually between \$2-5,000

It was motioned by Shlaferman and seconded by Schmidt to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$17,700 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Dakota County to partially finance the acquisition of a permanent easement on the 1.4 acre (Doebber) parcel as depicted in Figure 1 for Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The grant should be financed with:

- \$10,620 from the 2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation
- \$ 7,080 from Metropolitan Council bonds

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

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Wayfinding Guidelines for Trails and Bikeways - James Andrew, Sr. Planner-Transportation Planning**

Andrew gave a brief introduction of the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding report for review. This report will be brought back for formal recommendation and action at a future meeting.

Andrew discussed guidelines for wayfinding and gave background. He also discussed the benefits. He stressed that this report contains guidelines and not standards or regulations – that this is more of a ‘tool box’.

## **REPORTS**

- **Chair** – Chair Haas discussed mileage/parking reimbursements. Sandi has all necessary forms.
- **Commissioners** – None.
- **Staff** – None.

Council Member Wulff discussed the TAB bike ride and asked if any Commissioners are interested. She will have staff forward information.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Due to a lack of Agenda, the August 2, 2011 meeting will be canceled. The next meeting will be September 13, 2011 beginning at 3:00pm at Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park Nature Center.

NOTE: Date, time and location change.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

## **TOUR**

A tour of Gale Woods Farm followed the business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Executive Assistant  
Community Development