

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

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

March 6, 2012

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

ABSENT: Barb Schmidt, Bob Moeller

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:06p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2012.

OATH OF OFFICE

Secretary Dingle swore in new member Tony Yarusso, District E.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Commissioner Wasley motioned and Commissioner Piper seconded to approve the March 6, 2012 Agenda and the February 7, 2012 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION:

None.

BUSINESS

Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Request for Trout Brook Regional Trail, City of St. Paul - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferud gave a presentation outlining the request from the City of St. Paul for a Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Trout Brook Regional Trail as described in the memorandum provided.

Stefferud noted that this item was presented at the February MPOSC meeting and action as tabled pending further review of possible contaminated soils and a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of the property being considered.

Stefferud reviewed staff's conclusions as outlined in the materials provided.

Yarusso asked if the Council is being asked to finance any of the cleanup cost. Stefferud stated they are not.

Piper asked if it is common process for the Council to require remediation prior to funding acquisitions. Stefferud stated yes, gave examples of prior instances.

Yarusso asked about the letter regarding the resolution and asked if it was approved. Stefferud noted that it was and explained that it commits matching dollars.

Wulff thanked staff and the City for providing additional information.

Nyanwleh asked what 'Brownfields' money is. Stefferud gave a brief explanation of this program.

Yarusso asked if there will be further acquisitions for this trail. Stefferud stated they are listed in the Master Plan and noted he could provide that information to Yarusso, if desired.

It was moved by Lee and seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of up to \$1,526,723 from the FY 2012 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to the City of St. Paul to partially finance the acquisition of 2.5 acres (Jackson Auto parcel) as depicted in Figure 2 for Trout Brook Regional Trail. The grant should be financed with:

\$916,034 from the FY 2012 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Appropriation

\$610,689 from Metropolitan Council Bonds

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

Change in scope of Grant SG-2010-083, Ramsey County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd described the change in the scope of a grant to Ramsey County as outlined in the memorandum provided. Due to favorable bidding climate, there's \$100,000 of that grant to be used for design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park. Stefferud noted that the expiration of the grant should be extended to 6/30/14.

It was moved by Yarusso and seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2010-083 to allow up to \$100,000 of the grant to be used in conjunction with Grant SG-2011-085 for professional design services for park, road and trail redevelopment at Sucker Lake Road between East and West Vadnais Lakes; and change the expiration date of the grant to June 30, 2014.

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

Reimbursement consideration of City of Bloomington funding for trail redevelopment/development at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Stefferd gave a presentation regarding the City of Bloomington's request for reimbursement consideration or funding for trail redevelopment/development at Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve as outlined in memorandum provided.

Stefferd reviewed staff's analysis and conclusions as described in the materials provided.

Nyanwleh asked why the City wants to do this now. Stefferud explained the costs to the City are less if they do the projects together as bids came in lower than were expected.

It was moved by Nyanwleh and seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing the City of Bloomington up to \$207,000 from its share of the 2012-13 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP for city financing of trail construction at the Normandale Park Unit of Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. 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.
2. Allow the City of Bloomington to use any funds in its 2012-13 Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP share beyond the trail reimbursement to finance a portion of reconstruction of parking lots, improve lighting and make associated storm water management improvements at the West Bush Lake Park unit of Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve.

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

Change in scope of Grant SG-2010-079, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Steffered described the request from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to change the scope of the grant as outlined in the memorandum provided.

It was moved by Piper and seconded by Nyanwleh to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to Grant SG-2010-079 to allow up to \$212,000 of the grant to be used at Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park to complete trail, parking lot and landscaping improvements; site furniture installation; and a Mill Ruins historic wall stabilization study.

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

Change in scope of Grant SG-2009-043, Carver County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks

Steffered discussed request from Carver County to change the scope of a grant as outlined in the memorandum provided. He also noted that the expiration date of the grant should be extended to 12/31/12.

Wasley asked if the extension will be enough time. Stefferud acknowledge most of the work is done and the grant is being amended back to its original scope.

It was moved by Wasley and seconded by Lee to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a third amendment to Grant SG-2009-043 to allow up to \$205,000 of the grant to match \$1,255,876 of federal dollars for costs related to the design, engineering and construction of 6.9 miles of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail and trailhead, any unspent dollars from this grant would be used to match \$1,090,000 of federal funds for the design, engineering and construction of 1.5 miles of trail at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and a grade separated crossing at Trunk Highway 41; and change the expiration date of the grant to December 31, 2012.

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

REPORTS

- **Chair** – Thanked Vice-Chair Wasley for chairing the past two meetings in his absence.
- **Commissioners** – None.
- **Staff** – None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 3, 2012 beginning at 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Executive Assistant
Community Development