

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

November 8, 2012

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Johnston, Daniel Shlaferman, Seyon Nyanwleh, Tony Yarusso, Barb Schmidt, Emily Johnson Piper, Bob Moeller, Carrie Wasley, Jeff Lee

ABSENT: Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnston called the special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:03 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Moeller made a motion and it was seconded by Schmidt to approve the November 8, 2012 agenda. **The motion was approved.** Nyanwleh made a motion and it was seconded by Yarusso to approve the October 2, 2012 minutes. **The motion was approved.**

PUBLIC INVITATION

None.

BUSINESS

Rosemount Regional Greenway Master Plan, Dakota County - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Dupre gave a presentation on the Rosemount Regional Greenway Master Plan submitted by Dakota County. She discussed the background and the review analysis as outlined in the report provided. She noted an error in the report regarding the estimated trail corridors capital (construction) costs listed on page 6 of the report. The amount listed should be \$12,092,457 (not \$14,720,336).

Dupre discussed the review by other Council Divisions and noted comments from Environmental Services shown in the staff report.

Dupre outlined the conclusions of the review/analysis and staff's recommendations.

Moeller asked how the crossings of major highways are being addressed. Dupre stated these are addressed in the Master Plan with underpasses and enhancements.

John Mertens, Dakota County stated that there is an underpass at Highway 52. Other plans, for example on county roads, will be addressed with grade separation (under or over) and these will be assessed as they are developed.

Schmidt made a motion to recommend and it was seconded by Moeller that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Rosemount Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 50028-1).
2. Require Dakota County to send the greenway trail preliminary plans to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager, to assess the potential impact to the Metropolitan Council's interceptors prior to initiating the project.

3. Request that Dakota County consider the references to infiltrating stormwater in vulnerable wellhead protection areas as noted in this memorandum.

Nyanwlele asked for clarification of public awareness and asked if this was Dakota County residents. Mertens described the public process including Technical Advisory Groups and public open houses.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Vermillion Highlands Regional Greenway Master Plan, Dakota County - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Dupre gave a presentation on the Vermillion Highlands Regional Greenway Master Plan submitted by Dakota County. She discussed the background and the review analysis as outlined in the report provided. Dupre outlined the different segments of the trail as well as alternate alignments shown. Dupre discussed the development costs.

Dupre discussed review by other Council Divisions and noted comments from Environmental Services and Parks and Natural Resources as shown in the staff report.

Dupre outlined the conclusions of the review analysis and staff's recommendations.

Piper asked how many private owners are involved and what their concerns were. She also asked if the trails will be plowed in the winter. Dupre stated that they will be plowed. Mertens stated that there was very little opposition or concerns with the exception of the trail along Dodd Road and this was a mix – some wanted it, some did not. He noted that the trail will be located within the right of way along Dodd Road and their issue is more about 'not in my backyard'. He further stated that the community, as a whole, supports the plan.

Yarusso referred to Figure 6 in the report and asked how priorities were set. Mertens stated that the middle segment is the highest priority because development is being done now. Next, the southern segment will connect from White Tail Woods to Vermillion and the segment going through U Moore is less of a priority as they are not as far along in their development.

Lee asked about the annual maintenance costs (.5 million dollars) – is there a plan in place for budget of additional trails over the next 20-30 years. Steve Sullivan, Dakota County explained that the \$0.5 million includes not only maintaining the trail now but a portion for replacing the pavement of the trail in 20 years. Money is set aside and as new units are implemented the Dakota County's Board looks at what will need to be allocated to finance those new operation and maintenance costs.

Nyanwlele asked about 80/20 goal differences between the two plans. Mertens described the connections and fewer roads associated with Vermillion.

Nyanwlele asked about conflicts. Mertens stated that the majority of trails do not affect any people. One area that was new was along Dodd Road and this is where the concerns were. Sullivan discussed due diligence that was done and stated that in general, the public is happy with the plan.

Schmidt pointed out that Rosemount's primary regional park is Lebanon Hills, but they have no way to get there. She also pointed out trails are often found to be very favorable after they're put in.

Nyanwlele made a motion to recommend and it was seconded by Schmidt that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Require Dakota County to provide trail alignment and development plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Manager for review to protect regional wastewater interceptor facilities.

3. Request that Dakota County consider the referenced documents regarding groundwater and surface water management concerns.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Change in Scope of Three Anoka County Park Grants - Arne Stefferud, Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Stefferud gave a presentation on the request from Anoka County to amend the scope of three park grants as outlined in the staff report provided.

Stefferud discussed the conclusions and staff recommendations.

Yarusso asked for clarification for where the dollars are coming from. Stefferud referred to Attachment 1 of the staff report that shows where the money is coming from. All grants are financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations.

Yarusso asked about projects at Coon Rapids Dam. Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks discussed other funding sources that will be utilized for these projects.

Nyanwleh went on record saying that he has a hard time understanding why we are reallocating dollars. Blaska noted that the Master Plan is the ‘overall’ plan and as they get into design, they are able to free up dollars at which point they like to complete other projects. Stefferud pointed out that they are maximizing the utilization of funds they have as these funds are limited.

Piper supports reallocating dollars because of efficiencies as it shows they are good stewards of this effort.

Nyanwleh maintained that this is ‘public money’ and still doesn’t understand why it is not available for other agencies. Stefferud explained the process that the Legislature appropriates money to be allocated by the Metropolitan Council which is then done by dividing the allocation using a formula in state law. He explained that each agency’s allocation is their ‘slice of the pie’ so to speak. They are required to come before this Commission and the Council to show how they are going to use their allocation. If these uses change, they are required to come back and amend the scope of their grant to show how they intend to use the money.

Lee made a motion to recommend and it was seconded by Shlaferman that the Metropolitan Council authorize amendments to change the scope of Grants SG-2011-099, SG-2011-101 and SG-2012-050 to Anoka County as described in Attachment 1.

Chair Johnston called for a vote. **The motion carried 8:1 with Nyanwleh voting nay.**

Information Item: Reimbursable Expenses for Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Activities - Arne Stefferud, Manager—Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Stefferud explained the reimbursement policy and cited the state statute. He then discussed examples of reimbursable expenses. He noted that an annual permit for a regional park is not reimbursable, however if a member were required to pay an entrance fee (daily pass) to attend a function/meeting that they were requested to attend, they would be entitled to be reimbursed for that expense.

Piper asked if there is a budget for conferences, seminars, and workshops for members to attend and also discussed other reimbursable expenses, i.e., lunch paid for at a conference or meeting.

Yarusso clarified if you’re just looking at a park (and not there for a meeting) it would not be reimbursable. Stefferud stated it would not but suggested calling the park director and asking for a tour in which case there would be no cost involved.

Wasley asked about per diems for attending meetings and if any other Council Committees or Commissions are paid per diems. Stefferud stated that he was not sure, but could check on this.

Piper stated that by statute we are not allowed per diems. In 2003 the statute was amended and noted that prior to this, per diems were paid. Stefferud stated that this is what the law is today. Piper also referenced MN Statute 15.059, which applies to advisory committees in state government, not the Metropolitan Council. It calls for \$55 per diem for attending advisory committee meetings.

Yarusso asked if allowing reimbursement of annual passes would need to be an act of the Legislature. Stefferud stated that it would.

Moeller stated that if other Committees or Commissions are being paid per diems we should ask why we aren't.

Stefferud stated that in 2003 the Legislature discussed abolishing the MPOSC. The logic at that time was to streamline the decision making process and save public money as this commission does not own/operate the regional park system or 'have power' (as they are an advisory board to the Council). The compromise back then was to take away the per diem.

Schmidt asked how many agencies require an entry fee. Stefferud stated that three do but noted that one annual pass is good at all three.

Piper asked again if there is a budget for conferences, etc. Stefferud stated that there is.

The Commission requested a report comparing what compensation is provided to other advisory committees to the Metropolitan Council for discussion at the December meeting.

REPORTS

- **Chair** – None.

- **Commissioners** – Yarusso reported that he attended a meeting at the Wyoming City Park regarding trail connections from Anoka, Chisago, and Washington Counties.

Nyanwleh reported that he attended the Committee of the Whole meeting here at the Council on 10/31/12 where Thrive 2040 was discussed. He stated that it was a good meeting.

- **Staff** – None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 (note date change due to time needed to prepare public hearing report) in Room LLA at the Metropolitan Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Principal Administrative Specialist
Community Development

Attachment 1: Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks and Recreation



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

October 24, 2012

Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst - Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Grant Amendment Requests for SG 2011-099, SG 2011-101 & SG 2012-050

Dear Arne:

As you are aware, the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has fully executed Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant agreements for SG 2011-099, SG 2011-101 and SG 2012-050. Due to some differences between estimating and bidding, Anoka County would also like to amend those agreements.

For Grant Agreement SG 2011-099, Anoka County would like to expand the scope of work for this grant to reallocate approximately \$30,000 of grant funds to the design and replacement of the mechanical filtration system for the wave pool at Bunker Hills Regional Park. Therefore, the new grant description would be as follows:

- a. \$470,000 at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, design and reconstruct roads, campsites, utilities; storm water drainage improvements, upgrade furnishings at campground, landscape restoration, plus associated permit fees and contingencies.
- b. \$30,000 at Bunker Hills Regional Park, for the design and replacement of the mechanical filtration system for the wave pool.

For Grant Agreement SG 2011-101, Anoka County would like to expand the scope of work for this grant to reallocate \$110,000 of grant funds to the same project at the wave pool. Therefore, the new grant description would be as follows:

- a. \$90,000 at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, implement day camp redevelopment to include the construction of road way improvements; storm water drainage restoration and improvements; utilities; lighting; signs; site furnishings; plus associated permit fees and contingencies.
- b. \$110,000 at Bunker Hills Regional Park, for the design and replacement of mechanical filtration system for the wave pool.

For Grant Agreement SG 2012-050, Anoka County would like to expand the scope of work for this grant to reallocate grant funds to include 50% funding for the reconstruction of the septic system at Chomonix Golf Course Clubhouse. You will recall that the clubhouse serves as a trailhead facility for the regional trails in the area, as well as the trailhead facility for the cross country ski program at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve. Therefore the grant description

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

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should be as follows:

- a. At Bunker Hills Regional Park, approximately \$235,000 design and replacement of mechanical filtration system for the wave pool.
- b. At Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, approximately \$606,000 to complete the reconstruction of campground roadways, utility improvements and campsites.
- c. At Lake George Regional Park, approximately \$100,000 to complete redevelopment of beach wall.
- d. At Rice Creek West Regional Trail/Manomin Park, approximately \$190,000 design and reconstruction of the entrance drive, parking lot and sidewalks.
- e. At Mississippi River Regional Trail from Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park to 37th Avenue, approximately \$100,000 to design and reconstruct bituminous trail and amenities.
- f. At Rice Creek Chain of lakes Park Reserve, approximately \$50,000 for the reconstruction of the Chomonix Golf Course Clubhouse Septic System.
- g. Work for these projects will also include stormwater drainage improvements, utilities, lighting, site furnishings, signs, landscape restoration, and associated fees and contingencies.

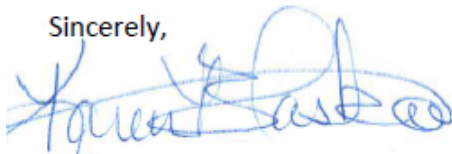
The following projects were delayed and therefore removed from this grant:

- a. At Coon Rapids Dam Regional, approximately \$125,000 to complete design and reconstruct park roadway, parking lots and trails, construction trails and fishing access.
- b. At Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, approximately \$216,000 to continue day camp redevelopment.

I am enclosing a map that shows the location of the grant projects in relation to one another for your reference.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 763-767-2865 or karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Karen Blaska
Park Planner

cc: John VonDeLinde, Director

