

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

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

**December 6, 2011**

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

**ABSENT:** Jeff Lee

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Haas called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:02p.m. Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Chair Haas requested to amend the agenda to include the appointment of a Vice Chair. With that amendment, Commissioner Wasley motioned and Commissioner Shlaferman seconded to approve the December 6, 2011 Agenda and the November 1, 2011 Minutes. Chair Haas called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION:**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Vice Chair**

Chair Haas named Carrie Wasley as Vice-Chair, subject to the approval by the Commission to act for the Chairperson during temporary absence or disability according to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Bylaws.

It was motioned by Shlaferman and seconded by Schmidt to recommend that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approve the appointment of Carrie Wasley as the Commission's Vice-Chair for 2012.

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

**Reimbursement Consideration Request for Completing Nature Play Area at Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park, Ramsey County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud gave a presentation outlining the request from Ramsey County for reimbursement consideration for the cost involved in the completion of the Nature Play Area at Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park. He described the project to be reimbursed as well as the reimbursement request analysis as outlined in the memorandum provided.

It was moved by Shlaferman and seconded by Schmidt to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize Ramsey County to expend up to \$150,000 of its own funds for the construction of the remaining Tamarack Nature Center Play Area elements consisting of the gathering shade arbor, tunnel/climbing features and interpretive signage at Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park. This project is proposed to be

funded from the County's share of the SFY 2013 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation. The County will not be reimbursed for its expenses from the SFY 2013 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation until the appropriation is available and after execution of a grant agreement for this project.

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

**Scott West Regional Trail Master Plan, Scott County (Referral No. 50011-1) - Tori Dupre, Senior Planner –Parks**

Dupre gave a presentation of the Scott County's Scott West Regional Trail Master Plan submitted and outlined in the memorandum provided.

Piper asked how acquisition costs are estimated. Andy Hingeveld, Scott County Project Manager responded that they use property value estimates. He noted that much of the project will be done along with county road project reconstruction and this was taken into consideration.

Haas asked about snow removal on the trail. Hingeveld stated that the cities are responsible for trail maintenance, if they choose to do so, which it is assumed will be the case.

Wasley asked how many miles of trails does this add to the system. Dupre referenced the 2030 Parks Policy Plan and stated it would add 16.4 miles. She also stated that it is a larger impact on the entire trail system, as it is a connecting trail.

Wasley asked how this works with adjacent implementing agencies. Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District spoke to the boundaries that Three Rivers Park District serves and the joint powers relationship with Scott County up until 2005 as well as the moderation of that joint powers agreement and their roles/responsibilities of both Three Rivers and Scott County. He noted that in this jurisdiction, it's Scott County's responsibility.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Wasley to recommend that the Metropolitan Council: Approve the Scott West Regional Trail Master Plan.

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

**Bassett Creek Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Referral No. 50013-1) - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Youngquist described the Bassett Creek Regional Trail Master Plan submitted by Three Rivers Park District (the District) as outlined in the memorandum provided.

Wasley noted that the memorandum states that the District ensures the trail is cleared through November 14 and asked if all municipalities see that it is clear throughout the winter. Boe Carlson stated that the District's policy is to not maintain in the wintertime. He stated that municipalities may choose to clear for use, pack for cross country skiing use, or whatever they choose. The District is seeing more desire to have the trails cleared year round and they are looking at ways to budget for this.

Wasley encouraged the District to do this. She felt that year round usage would be beneficial. She also asked if there is any signage showing what parts of the trails are open for use in the winter. Carlson stated that part of their winter permitting process does require signage. He acknowledged that they are seeing a much higher demand for these corridors.

Moeller noted that where trails are plowed in his community, the result is ice packed snow. He stated that brush rollers do a much better job and asked if best practices could be established. Carlson noted that they do encourage use of brush rollers, except where trails are limestone.

Nyanwleh asked for more details on who the developers are. Haas stated that we are approving a plan, not the actual construction costs. Nyanwleh asked when the Commission get this information. Haas stated that we have not approved any construction. Youngquist explained the need to approve the 'plan' but development may not happen for many years to come. Haas asked if we normally get this level of detail. Youngquist stated the Commission does not. She noted that the implementing agencies own, operate, maintain and acquire – we provide a source of funding.

Schmidt noted that state law governs the bidding process.

Youngquist noted that many of these projects will be developed in conjunction with county road projects.

Wulff stated that the implementing agencies have an incentive to get good value, as they get to keep any allotment not used for other projects.

Piper stated that she feels increased access to these parks is very important.

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

1. Approve the Bassett Creek Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 50013-1).
2. Require that prior to development of new trail segments, development plans be sent to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment in order to ensure the integrity of the interceptor system.
3. Advise Three Rivers Park District that the construction costs described in the master plan for Segment D (striping a bike lane along Nevada Avenue) and for Segment E6 (reconstruction of the existing trail parallel to TH 100 as part of a future residential subdivision) are not eligible for regional parks funding.

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

## **REPORTS**

- **Chair** – Reported that he will be gone in January and February and Wasley will be chairing those meetings.
- **Commissioners** – Moeller complimented Youngquist on her role in Wayfinding presentation that he attended. Youngquist noted that comments will be brought back early next year.
- **Staff** – Beckman stated that the Council is updating the Framework and noted that there will be a Sustainable Development Plan now.

Beckman also noted that the Met Council is a Yellow Ribbon agency (the first).

**NEXT MEETING**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Executive Assistant  
Community Development