

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

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

**April 3, 2012**

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

**ABSENT:** None.

It was noted that Chuck Haas has submitted his resignation from the Commission effective immediately. Vice Chair Wasley will be Acting Chair until a replacement can be appointed.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wasley called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 4:00p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Commissioner Shlaferman motioned and Commissioner Lee seconded to approve the April 3, 2012 Agenda and the March 6, 2012 Minutes. Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**PUBLIC INVITATION:**

None.

**BUSINESS**

**2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment - Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Youngquist gave a brief history of the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan and noted that the latest update – was 2010. She discussed the proposed amendments including a request from Three Rivers Park District (District) to add two regional trail search corridors described in the memorandum provided. They are the Minnetristra Regional Trail Search Corridor and the Intercity Regional Trail.

Schmidt asked how much of Minnetristra trail will be away from traveled roadways. Youngquist stated that the trail corridor is still in the preliminary planning, however, if approved and brought into the system it would begin the Master Planning process and alignment would be determined at that time. She noted that the City of Minnetristra is working with the District and a developer on obtaining easements in order to plan for connecting trails.

Schmidt asked the same question about the Intercity Trail. Youngquist stated that this will be more of a linking corridor. Boe Carlson, from the District noted that this is a very developed area. The gem here is the connection of the Chain of Lakes. He noted that this is proposed to be an ‘off road’ trail within the road right of way.

Yarusso asked about the feasibility of connecting Gail Woods to Baker Park Reserve and also about making a loop route to Loose Line. Youngquist pointed out the gap on the map and noted that there is potential. Carlson further discussed potential for future trail connections and noted they may have to be on street routes.

Yarusso asked if these potential connections should be a part of this amendment. Youngquist noted that future connections may be looked at in 2014.

Nyanwleh referred to the letter in the packet and asked for clarification. Youngquist explained that once the Council approves, these trails can then be brought into the system and the Master Planning process begins.

Nyanwleh asked about public participation in development of trails. Youngquist explained the public process followed during the master planning process. Beckman commented on the process and noted that it is heard by the Community Development Committee and the full Council and that the Council has a public hearing process as well.

Wasley pointed out the public hearing process/schedule is described on page 12 of the memo provided.

Youngquist next discussed language erroneously omitted from the 2010 update to the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan. She noted that although language was missing, the policy has been applied. She referred to the staff report to explain changes to the policy plan – starting on page 7 of the memorandum provided. She noted that many of the changes are ‘housekeeping’ items and not substantive. Because we are going through the update process, including a public hearing process, it makes sense to make the corrections needed.

Moeller asked if there are any time constraints on reimbursement requests – i.e., reimbursement sought for land bought prior to being brought into the system. Youngquist stated no, however, she pointed out that there are conditions/criteria that would need to be applied and referenced Doyle-Kennefick property purchase.

Piper asked why we are not waiting to amend policy changes. Youngquist stated that if there wasn’t a proposed amendment, we would wait, however, since we are going through the process anyway, it is an opportunity to add language that was omitted. She reiterated that this is a policy that we hold the implementing agency’s to.

Piper questioned the verbiage on lines 93-96. Yarusso suggested adding (to line 93): “If the amount of requests for reimbursements...”

It was moved by Piper and seconded by Yarusso to add that language to line 93. Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

Wasley asked why the policy changes aren’t just being footnoted instead of making an amendment to the plan. Youngquist explained it would come out as an ‘amended date’

Wasley asked if the changes would be obvious to the casual reader. Beckman stated the new amended policy would become ‘the policy’ and noted the public hearing process is an important piece of amending the policy.

Piper asked, if it’s just a clarification, what is the justification to making the change if the process is so arduous. Beckman responded that clarity is very important and noted we are taking the opportunity now because we do have a request from Three Rivers for an amendment as well.

Youngquist continued to review several other minor changes including punctuation, formatting, etc. described on page 11 of the staff report.

Youngquist reviewed staff's conclusions and recommendations.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Yarusso to recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing on June 18, 2012 as part of its Community Development Committee meeting regarding amending the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* to:
  - Recognize the Minnetrista Regional Trail Search Corridor and Intercity Regional Trail as components of the regional parks system;
  - Clarify Finance Strategy 6 as shown in Figure 6;
  - Make minor corrections as shown in Figure 8.

The hearing record shall remain open until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 28, 2012.

2. Direct staff to publish public hearing notices and distribute copies of the proposed amendments to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* under the Council's administrative procedure for public hearings.

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

**Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Request for Spring Lake Park Reserve, Dakota County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferdud gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the request from Dakota County for a park acquisition opportunity fund grant for Spring Lake Park Reserve as outlined in the staff report.

Stefferdud reviewed the acquisition cost analysis and revenue sources to be used.

Lee asked who will manage the boat launch. Stefferud stated Dakota County will.

Nyanwleh discussed his concern with the structures on the property. Stefferud noted that the structures are not being used and are not inhabitable. Under our stewardship policy it is in the public's best interest to remove these nuisances.

Nyanwleh asked why not wait until the structures are removed. Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks responded that there was no value, as part of the valuation, for these structures.

Schmidt stated that they've waited 30+ years for this and she is very excited to see it coming forward.

It was moved by Schmidt and seconded by Piper to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of up to \$524,342 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Dakota County to finance 75% of the acquisition costs to acquire 35.7 acres (Joseph's parcel) as depicted in Figure 1 for Spring Lake Park Reserve. The grant should be financed with:

- \$314,605 from the 2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation
- \$209,737 from Metropolitan Council bonds

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

**Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Request for Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferdud apologized for an error in the report that refers to Dakota County, rather than Three Rivers Park District (District). He discussed the request from the District Rivers for a park acquisition opportunity

fund grant for Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. He noted that in this case, two structures on the property will be removed by the seller prior to acquisition.

Yarusso asked how this parcel will be used. Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District responded that his hope is to restore it to its more natural state and put in a canoe launch and possible picnic area. He noted that there may be a future trail opportunity as well.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Shlaferman to recommend that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of up to \$646,500 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to finance 75% of the acquisition costs to acquire 4 acres (Manor parcel) as depicted in Figure 1 for Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. The grant should be financed with:

- \$387,900 from the 2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation
- \$258,600 from Metropolitan Council bonds

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

**Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan Amendment, Anoka County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud gave a presentation regarding the request from Anoka County for an amendment for the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve outlined in the staff report provided.

Yarusso asked what we will be providing access to and what do we envision for this parcel. Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks responded that it would be used for wildlife viewing initially, and the long term vision would be to have canoe access to the creek.

It was moved by Shlaferman and seconded by Lee to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve Master Plan Amendment (Referral No. 50021-1)

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

**Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Master Plan, Scott County - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud gave a presentation of the Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Master Plan as outlined in the materials provided.

Yarusso asked what defines the boundary of the park. Patti Freeman, Scott County Parks responded that there is a topographical break and pointed out the benefit to having development adjacent to the park as 40 acres would need to be given to the park by the developer.

It was moved by Moeller and seconded by Lee to recommend that the Metropolitan Council approve the Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 50022-1). Without further discussion, Chair Wasley called for a vote. **The motion carried.**

**Discussion on scheduling June, July, August and September MPOSC Meetings and Tours - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks**

Stefferud reviewed the proposed tour sites outlined in the memorandum provided.

Moeller suggested staff come back with a recommendation to our next meeting for approval.

**REPORTS**

- **Chair** – None.

- **Commissioners** – Moeller noted that there will be a speaker on April 22 at the Ridgedale Library – Richard Love – who writes about children in the wilderness – why aren't more kids exploring wilderness.

Nyanwleh discussed an invitation to the 2012 Special Parks District Forum in Three Rivers Park District, June 18-21. He shared an interest in attending.

- **Staff** – None.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be May 1, 2012 beginning at 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Executive Assistant  
Community Development