

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Anoka County Field Operations Building
1530 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304
Thursday, April 23, 2015
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

M I N U T E S

Members Present: Wayne Sames, Joel Stedman, Asha Shoffner, Tim Mitchell, Patrick Stieg, Bob Bierscheid, Tom Stoa, Jenny Smith, Brook Meier, Rick Anderson, Brian Hubbard, Nancy Hanson, Pete Royer
Liaisons: Jan Youngquist, Al Lieffort, Rachel Hopper (for Erika Rivers)

Guests: Mike Kimble (St. Paul P&R), John VonDeLinde (Anoka County Parks), Len Price (CCM).

Staff: Paul Purman, Tutu Fatukasi

1. Welcome

Agenda approved with addition of open seat discussion at end of meeting.

Minutes approved with date correction

- February 26, 2014 to February 26th, 2015

2. Five Year Benchmarks Presentation

In order to implement the Parks and Trails Legacy plan, 5 year priorities (5YP) were set to guide the implementation of the plan. The current proposal is for a method of assessment of the past 5YP to reevaluate them and set priorities for the next five years.

Proposal

Within the 2015 committee year, the PTLAC will conduct an assessment of 5YP with scorecards for which DNR, Met Council, and GMRPTC Liaisons will assess organizational achievements with Committee member input and leadership to decide the priorities of focus for the coming 5 years.

The scorecard serves as a tool to examine past 5 years of work as the committee works to guide spending of the Legacy funds based on the priorities and guidelines set in the Parks and Trails 25 year plan.

Next Meeting-June 25th

Granite Falls Memorial Park
Granite Falls, MN

Committee Actions Required

New members: fill out volunteer form and register as state vendor in order to be reimbursed for meeting expenses.

Returning members should review their bio information and forward any revisions if not done so already to Paul Purman at paul.purman@state.mn.us ASAP.

At the next meeting, social media presentation given by Communications subcommittee.

Committee members review all priorities laid out in Legacy plan for feedback and review of criteria at June 25 meeting.

Staff and Liaison Actions Required

See section 3 on Five Year Benchmarks.

Continue to work with communications subcommittee to establish communication methods, like an email address, for the committee.

3. Five Year Benchmarks Discussion

After the presentation committee members provided feedback to the proposal guided by the following prompts:

1. What words or phrases from the presentation got your attention?
2. What was exciting to you in the presentation?
3. What was concerning or troubling information that was presented?
4. What limitation and gaps have you heard in the approach?
5. What next steps do we need to implement this approach?

Themes and key points from the discussion included:

1. What words or phrases from the presentation got your attention?
 - Scorecard: As a tool to measure accomplishments and next step planning for Legacy funded projects.
 - Process: Assessment of the 5 year priorities within the committee year helps to create a framework of accountability that furthers the work of the PTLAC.
 - Evaluation: an opportunity to gather numerical data that can support accomplishments and serve as deliverables to the public.
2. What was exciting to you in the presentation?
 - Taking the first steps to create and implement an assessment tool for continual use by the committee to review investments and outcomes in Legacy projects.
 - Opportunity to compare opinions and accomplishments among the DNR, Met Council , and GMRPTC
 - Revisit ideas and priorities that need to be actualized.
3. What was concerning or troubling information that was presented?
 - How public will be included in this 5 year evaluation process in assessment and prioritization.
 - Possible discrepancies may arise when reprioritizing next set of priorities.
 - Nature of the criteria used to conduct evaluation of 5-year priorities may not be representative of actual work accomplished if solely based on the amount of money allocated to a category of priority.
 - Concern of time frame to accomplish this committee project.
4. What limitation and gaps have you heard in the approach?
 - Understanding that all three implementing agencies may not be able to provide an equal amount of data and all may be at different stages of implementation. Question becomes: How to create a tool that accounts for agency differences?
 - Determining how the scorecard or assessment tool will be functional in order to gather meaningful and useful information.
 - How to engage young people in this process.
5. What next steps do we need to implement this approach?

Actionable items:

Paul will set up a meeting of the Benchmarks Subcommittee (Nancy H, Tim M, and Joel S) with liaisons and Brian to discuss metrics of scorecards. Determine criteria of evaluation for completed Legacy projects to assist in creation of Scorecard

Liaisons will prepare and present scorecards with metrics at June 25 meeting.

Committee members review all priorities laid out in Legacy plan for feedback and review of criteria at June 25 meeting.

4. Lunch

John VonDeLinde, Parks and Community Services Division Manager, provided an overview of Anoka County Field Operations Center and Bunker Hills Regional Park.

The Anoka County Park System was established in 1963 with the first park in Columbia Heights, now known as Albert A Kordiak Park. Services that the park system provides include the Wargo Nature Center, Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, an 18 hole golf course, Bunker Beach Water Park, Coon Rapids archery club, dog park, disc golf course and riding stables.

Today's park system encompasses 11,750 acres, 10,300 regional park acres, 7 regional parks, 1 park reserve, 6 country parks, 3 conservation areas, with 3.7 million annual visits.

5. Updates from Liaisons

DNR, Division of Parks and Trails, Rachel Hopper

For the next biennium, DNR Strategic Directions have been updated with Governor Dayton's supplemental numbers from the February revised budget forecast. Utilizing results based accountability, the Strategic Directions closely follow the 25-year plan, informed by DNR P&T new System Plan, in order to compare investment with priorities, following the Legacy pillars.

Metropolitan Council, Jan Youngquist

Met Council submitted a report of Legacy projects to Legislature and discussed the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan that was adopted in February. Ten percent of Legacy funds are dedicated to land acquisitions and Met Council matches it with bonds; these grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Remainder of Legacy funds distributed via formula that is written in statute. Some of the FY 16 – 17 project proposals in the Metro Regional Parks System use Legacy funds to leverage federal trail grants.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, Al Lieffort

This year, GMRPTC can now allocate 10% of funds to 'Connecting People to the Outdoors' where previously it was not possible due to language in statute. The language identifies parks and trails 'of state or regional significance', but some believe funding should be spent to bring people to any parks and trails in the Greater MN area. Currently, the system planning of trails of regional significance found 19 properties scored the highest of those evaluated. The next round of regional designation will be conducted with a web based application and will be ranked against criteria for legacy fund eligibility. The application closes on June 30th.

A change to FY 16 – 17 will have recommendations made by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission with final say from the Commissioner for this biennium. At the 2017 legislative session, GMRPTC will have list of projects in line with Met Council and the DNR. The 2015 report delivered to the Legislature is available through <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/gmrptc>

6. Subcommittee Reports

Communications Subcommittee

Submit any project completion to the communication subcommittee to be posted on social media channels.

Action: Communications subcommittee will work on a social media content calendar and present at the next meeting.

Look into methods for creating an email address for committee communications.

Funding Subcommittee

The subcommittee continued discussion of funding for local parks and how to define a park of regional significance and appropriate methods to use funds. Brief discussion of other (non-Legacy) funds to direct small projects to that do not qualify for Legacy.

Governance Subcommittee

The Governance subcommittee will be comprised of Brian and Kathy, as committee chair and alternate chair. Governance documents will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Action: Any returning members should review their information and forward any revisions to Paul ASAP.

Youth Subcommittee

The subcommittee continued discussion on how to involve young people in decision making and project plans to research how Legacy dollars have been spent to engage youth and young adults in parks and trails.

Benchmarks Subcommittee

A full-committee discussion will help frame the subcommittee's work. Existing data and resources may be available to begin evaluation of some 5-year priorities. The liaisons welcome evaluation of Legacy goals by the committee.

Action: Paul will schedule a meeting for Benchmarks Subcommittee and Liaisons to further benchmarks discussion for next PTLAC meeting.

7. Open PTLAC seat discussion

The recommended decision of the liaisons is to leave the current unfilled ad hoc seat vacant. In agreement with the Committee, the seat will remain open and be filled in the next round of member solicitations in late 2015.

Meeting Adjourned