

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting, June 22, 2017

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE
COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING ON AUGUST 24, 2017

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Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Elm Creek Park Reserve
12400 James Deane Pkwy
Maple Grove, MN 55369
June 22, 2017
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Updates and Announcements

Next Meeting: August 24, 2017

Meeting Host: Great Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Meeting Location: TBA

Committee Actions Required

Staff – Schedule orientation session for new committee member, Poppy Potter.

2018 Events WG – Schedule Meeting in 2nd week of July

Youth Outreach Subc. – Name Subc. Chair

Accessibility WG – Communicate with MSCOD their role within the WG.

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

Bob Bierscheid, Brian Hubbard, Brook Maier, Chris Crutchfield, Katherine Bloom, Kathy Bergen, Les Ollila, Louise Segreto, Nancy Hanson, Patrick Stieg, Randy Sorensen, Renee Evans, Tim Mitchell, Wayne Sames

(via Webex: Tom Stoa)

Liaisons: Emmett Mullin, Renee Mattson, Mike Hulett, Laura Preus

Guests: Jon Oyanagi (Ramsey County Parks), Boe Carlson, Jonathan Vlaming (Three Rivers Park District)

Staff: Paul Purman, Maria Lee, Stefanie Stearns

1. Welcome

Boe Carlson, Superintendent of Three Rivers Park District, welcomed the group to the Elm Creek Winter Recreation Chalet.

Boe reviewed the unique history of Three Rivers Park District (TRPD), the only special park district in Minnesota. TRPD is charged with serving suburban Hennepin County. TRPD has about 350 full time employees, a couple thousand seasonal employees, and many dedicated volunteers. TRPD sees about

11 million visitors annually. Many of these visitors (roughly 5,000) participate in nature-based programming.

TRPD has many examples of how Legacy was instrumental in providing high quality park and trail experiences. Their projects span the four pillars of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. Boe notes that there are always opportunities to educate about Legacy Funding through signage, website, and other means.

Boe answers committee questions on asset management. Specifically the group is impressed by TRPD's pavement management process which may extend the lifetime of paved surface to 30-35 years.

Agenda approved, no conflicts of interest identified.

April minutes approved with one amendment to the legislative update.

Action – Staff submit to LCC for posting on PTLAC site.

2. Metropolitan Council Updates

Met Council appointed committee member Asha Shoffner needed to end her term early because of other demands on her time. The Met Council reviewed previous applications on file and appointed Poppy Potter to fill the vacancy. Poppy will join the advisory committee at the August meeting.

Jan Youngquist is taking leadership roles in two major Met Council plans making her unavailable to regularly attend these meetings. Should Emmet be unable to attend, Jan will attend as Met Council Liaison. Jan will also continue working on the integrated website project and others identified as priorities for her.

The Met Council is piloting a process to bring the 10 agencies they work with closer to the Legacy Advisory Committee. Through the end of the calendar year, Jon Oyanagi, Ramsey County Parks and Rec Director, will be attending PTLAC meetings with Emmett. Jon shared his background and enthusiasm for parks and trails work, and was welcomed by the PTLAC.

Action – Staff will schedule and host new member orientation for Poppy. Staff will update bios on website and issue press release.

3. Legislative Updates

“What started off as a challenging session, ended up really good.”

The PTLAC's 40-40-20 Funding Recommendation to the legislature was well-received and had an impact; the formula was adopted again. Showed that the agencies are working together and working with the PTLAC/public.

Representative Gunther and Senator Ruud appreciated the display of agency partnership, through the joint presentations and shared goals.

Met Council

Funding Review

- \$1.5 million from LCC Funding for acquisitions
- \$5 million in state bonding
- \$17 million in Operations and Maintenance funding for the biennium. The Metropolitan Regional Park has operational costs that exceed \$100 million annually. These funding state funds are meant to partially address the cost of serving a broad visitorship.

PTLAC members serving last August (2016) will remember the Met Council presentation at the Duluth meeting on strategic directions, including a working session on minimum amounts of Legacy grant \$ to implementing agencies to be put toward “Connecting People to the Outdoors.” The Met Council in September 2016 had established a 5% minimum. But a bill passed this session that prohibits the Met Council from setting spending minimums on Legacy Funds. The argument from implementing agencies against the mandated minimum was that many of the agencies already do ‘Connecting’ work without Legacy Funds.

GMRPTC

Recommendations for FY 2018 project funding approved; moving forward with grant requests.

DNR

DNR Parks and Trails FY18-19 operational budget will meet the basic needs of the system over the biennium. Some user fees were increased and take effect July 1:

- State park increase of \$2 on daily passes, \$10 on annual passes (This is double what had been initially requested.)
- ATV and Snowmobile use fees increased
- XC skiing and boating fee increases were not approved

Some conversation followed on how fee increases presents a barrier to “Connecting People to the Outdoors.” DNR acknowledged this, but in the absence of adequate General Fund levels, fee increases are how the bills get paid.

4. 2018 Events Planning

Bob and Brook led the discussion.

Proposed Regional Meeting Locations:

1. Duluth
2. Bemidji
3. Fergus Falls
4. Little Falls
5. Marshall
6. Rochester
7. (METRO) Bloomington
8. (METRO) Silverwood Park – Pilot in Fall 2017?
 - More than half of MNs population lives in the 7-county metro. Should there be another meeting in the metro?

- All these events are planned to culminate in The Big Event in the summer of 2018.
- Still considering Legacy Weekend in Parks and Trails separate from regional meetings.

What will these meetings look like?

- Local planning committee to help shape event to be successful in specific community
- Outdoor activities festival (climbing wall, bike tune ups, lawn games, environmental Ed stations, etc.).
- Stakeholder table / station at event to share out and hear back on Legacy.
- Have fun, share impact, get feedback.
- Agencies should have a big, attractive list of Legacy impacts to share with stakeholders.
- Materials designed flexibly to be used in various locations, not just regional meetings, to educate the public about P&T Legacy.

Questions and Brainstorming

- What is the branding that makes this a recognizable and consistent effort?
- Is there a specific outcome for regional meeting attendees? Where are we directing them for next steps? (Ultimate hope is regional meeting attendees are involved in “The Big Event”)
- Could the impact sharing and feedback session rotate among churches, senior care centers, community centers, etc. to get a larger range of participation?
- Committee and agencies should absolutely consider inviting the governor to help kick off the 10 Year events.
- What existing events can this outreach build on?
 - State Fair?
 - Opportunity for signage at State Fair.
 - Grow presence at state fair by having partners share lit and/or signage.
 - Duluth, Essentia and Heritage Sports Center Healthy Living Event

Action – Workgroup will meet in person on July 12 from 1:30 to 3 pm. Staff will help coordinate this meeting, reserve space if needed.

5. Takeaways and Next Steps on Accessibility and Outdoor Recreation Presentation

Takeaways

Theme: Reaction to Presentation

- One of the more valuable presentations we’ve had, informative and common sense.
- Definition of disability is not necessarily what you’d expect – for example, including the rapidly aging population.
- Universal design is not just for people with disabilities, it helps everyone participate more.
- Would be great having MSCOD representation on the work group

Theme: Planning and Implementation

- Involve people with disabilities in planning to avoid mistakes.
- Bare minimum verses planning for things in advance and thinking proactively about growth. Look further and use common sense when thinking about what you can do.
- How to better label trails beyond easy, medium, hard. Give People specifics.

- Communication, letting people know that things have been changed. Where do you look for this information? Giving people information can help people decide if they can participate.
- The Welcome! Is there a clear path / whole experience made accessible?
- Federal gov't is further ahead than the state of Minnesota, new regulations on outdoor spaces accessibility for fed land managers. There are things that have grace periods, there are things that don't have grace periods (like fishing piers).

Next steps?

- Invite MSCOD to send a representative to the work group.
 - o This prompted a discussion of the process to add special members to work group
 - Charter simply states that subcommittees can have members that are not members of the full PTLAC
 - There is no process specified.
 - Work group recommends to the full PTLAC that the invitation be extended to MSCOD for the rest of 2017 on a pilot basis.
- MSCOD is legislatively mandated to consult with state agencies on accessibility.
- MSCOD could provide technical assistance.

Accessibility Work Group formally proposes adding MSCOD to their workgroup as a non-PTLAC member, consult.

Consensus agreement to add MSCOD.

Noted that this is a great precedent to set. There are great resources to add technical knowledge to other workgroups and subcommittees.

Action – Workgroup and staff will communicate this exciting news to Margot Imdieke-Cross and MSCOD.

Lunch

6. Integrated Website Project

Stefanie Stearns reviewed integrated website in its current state and recommended changes/results of public usability testing in early June. Website anticipated to launch around Labor Day. Should be live for fall colors.

Questions from Committee

What is the final product going to look like?

- People are interested in seeing where parks and trails intersect.
- Final layout will have search bar on the left like google maps for the desktop website.
- Map/List toggle for mobile site. Not enough room for both at once.
- All the parks and trails on the map may be too overwhelming for a welcome page. Maybe display a pretty map of Minnesota as the opening page.

Should businesses or other tourist amenities be listed on the map?

- Not right now, but maybe down the road.

Is it a website? Or just a tool?

- Currently there are not multiple webpages, just the tool and very simple help and 'About'.
- People liked what was displayed in terms of Legacy, who's behind the project.

Who's going to support the website once it is launched?

- Data should be 'self-updating' it's set up so that the information gets updated when parks and trails agencies do standard updates.

Does the star/save function save your list of parks after you end your session?

- Currently no. The website would need to support accounts and log-in information to do that.

7. Workgroups and Subcommittees Break Out

10 Year Events Workgroup

- Schedule a meeting on July 12.
- Renee Mattson will start looking for locations for regional meetings.

The Accessibility Workgroup

Key areas of work/interest:

- What needs to be built?
- Improve internal communication. i.e. how to make staff aware of level of accessibility
- Communication with the public. i.e. how to communicate the specifics needed for individuals and families to feel comfortable visiting.
- Legacy mission strongly aligned with recommendation to enhance accessibility.
- Recommendations may be informed by Outdoor Developed Areas: A Summary of Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas

Youth Subcommittee

- Will name a chair of the subcommittee by August
- Group is defining duties of the subcommittee chair and will have a meeting shortly after July 13.
- Continuing to serve a connectors and sounding boards for Youth Outreach Specialist.

Adjourn

Site visit hosted at the amazing Eastman Nature Center in the park. This nature center was rebuilt in 2012. The rebuild was 60% funded by P&T Legacy.