

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting, 23 February 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 APRIL 27, 2017.

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Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Robert Ney Memorial Park Reserve

5212 73rd St. NW

Maple Lake, MN 55358

Thursday, February 23, 2017

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Next Meeting- April 27, 2017, Location TBD

Committee Actions Required as a result of this meeting:

- New and Expanded Workgroups were established on February 23:
 - 10 Years of Legacy Workgroup: Brook, Wayne, Louise, Bob, Katherine, Brian
 - Accessibility Workgroup: Brian, Wayne, Randy
- Benchmarks and Communications subcommittees will work with liaisons on shared reporting.

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

Brian Hubbard, Brook Maier, Chris Crutchfield, Katherine Bloom, Louise Segreto, Nancy Hanson, Patrick Stieg, Peter Royer, Randy Sorensen, Tim Mitchell, Wayne Sames
(via Webex: Bob Bierscheid, Kathy Bergen, Tom Stoa)

Liaisons: Emmett Mullin, Jan Youngquist, Renee Mattson, Erika Rivers, Laura Preus

Guests: Celina Martina, Met Council Parks Ambassador

Staff: Paul Purman, Maria Lee, Stefanie Stearns

1. Welcome

Marc Mattice, Wright County Director of Parks and Trails, welcomed the Legacy Advisory Committee to the Ney Nature Center. Marc touched on some of the many Legacy project Wright County works on including their partnership with the YMCA (connecting people to land).

Agenda approved, no conflicts of interest identified.

December minutes approved with no changes.

Action – *staff submit to LCC for posting on PTLAC site.*

2. Legislative updates from Legacy agency Liaisons

- Erika, Renee, and Emmett describe joint DNR/Met Council/GM Legacy presentations to Legacy committees (one each in House and Senate). Joint presentations are an effective way to demonstrate the coordination between agencies.
- Each agency describe briefly their funding priorities this session.
- Working with legislators to keep the appropriation language as simple as possible, with few or no project line items brought forward by outside interest groups who are not grounded in the process of biennial proposal development.
- Emmett noted that the Office of the Legislative Auditor recently released “Legacy Fund Recipients: Annual Report on Noncompliance” (Report #17-04). The report covers all Legacy

Funds (not just Parks and Trails), and identifies noncompliance issues. Met Council and DNR were both cited for noncompliance. Agencies emphasized to committee members two main points about the report:

- It does not reflect procedure changes at Met Council in response to earlier OLA findings, and is thus out of date;
- DNR has a policy in place for management of both the 'direct and necessary costs' and 'supplement not substitute' requirements for Legacy Fund management that complies with direction from Minnesota Management and Budget (an executive branch state agency). But the OLA and MMB have different views of what is required to comply with those requirements.
- Discussion the role that land acquisition plays within agency priorities. In some counties, especially in northern Minnesota where large percentages of land are already owned by government, new acquisition is controversial, due to net loss (real or perceived) of local tax revenues. Members engaged in a discussion around the economic benefits of parks and trails acquisition and development to local communities, and acknowledged that dialogue with skeptics may help to alleviate some concerns about loss of property tax revenue.
- More funding may be available coming out of this session for local parks (not of regional significance).
 - Bills have been introduced to increase funding for local parks. (Wayne Sames can fill in folks who are interested)
 - ENRTF has changed eligibility language to include local parks A&D (Wayne subsequently provided written clarification: "Check out the LCCMR RFP funding priorities for 2018. Section G. Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation, part 4, states: "Efforts expanding outdoor recreational opportunities through additions and connections to state, regional or local parks and trails.")

3. Work Planning: 2018 celebration of 10 years of Legacy

- Paul shares framing document, the document is made to guide the discussion not limit ideas
- What will this event be?
 - Must ground engagement workshops and summit in what Minnesotans are experiencing, hoping, and needing for Parks and Trails
 - Get folks out to Legacy funded projects, not just in a conference room
 - Interactive/conversational
- When will the events be?
 - Locking in a date and venue for summit is a high priority due to competition. Would October 2018 be a more realistic goal than the currently proposed March/April 2018?
- Who is the Audience?
 - Remember the target audiences in the 25 YLP
 - Not an ALL Legacy event, but should be attentive to the other three funds (Clean Water, etc.)
 - Include business community as an audience
 - Timing and location of the event(s) pre-determines your audience, to a large extent
- How will it get done?
 - Similar to outreach for the creation of the 25 YLP, but more focused.

- What is the budget for this engagement and event? Amounts TBD, but support for strong planned events hosted by PTLAC could come from Coordinating Among Partners Funds
- Could involve business community, get sponsorships, etc. to increase funding ceiling and expand audience
- Interest in contracting with vendor in help with engagement and Summit work.
- Create opportunity for online engagement
- **Pluses and Wishes about draft proposal, and Needs... (committee discussion captured on flipcharts)**
 - Pluses
 - Theme: Reporting and Celebrating Progress
 - Show off accomplishments/ toot horn
 - Storytelling to provide context
 - Household Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey Results
 - Theme: Engagement Opportunity
 - Raising awareness of P&T Legacy Fund and accomplishments.
 - Recognize and encourage community engagement
 - Communities not typically reached included
 - Broad geography of engagement
 - Create momentum
 - Theme: Agency accountability and opportunity
 - Review original Legacy planning, and check in on how the 25 Year Plan is being used.
 - Accountability, demonstrates what we've been up to with Legacy funding
 - Strategic message development
 - Coordination among partners (P&T and other Legacy funds)
 - Wishes
 - We need to understand what will success look like coming out of these events?
 - What are desired Outcomes?
 - Need to articulate the "Big Simple Idea" or elevator speech
 - E.g., "What have we done? How have we done? And how can we do better?"
 - Accessibility as a guiding principle of events and outreach events
 - Conversation around accessibility surfaced during this activity. Clear that there is energy in this group to work on accessibility problems. The need for accessible outdoor activities was reiterated.
 - Summit should reflect impacts of/responsiveness to workshops
 - Check in on 25 YLP Strategies (rather than pillars, which provide a strong foundation for Legacy work)
 - Are we connecting with the right people?
 - Let's be sure to not just include those who are already outdoors! Who are the communities we are still not reaching?
 - Needs
 - Clarifications:
 - purpose
 - Audience(s)

- solid realistic timeline
- Begin to identify resources needed, e.g., Stipends to support underrepresented groups attending

Action – Liaisons and workgroup will make sharpened proposal and send back within 2-3 weeks to full group for review. Workgroup Volunteers: Bob, Katherine, Brook, Wayne, Louise

4. Work Planning: Shared Outcomes Reporting

- Paul shares framing document
- Feedback from LAC
 - Maps can be a powerful form of communication, especially story map media
 - Narrative element is a powerful way to make Legacy projects personal and provide context for numbers.
 - Discussion of whether the proposal for shared reporting is comprehensive enough – e.g., the Benchmarks Subc has discussed with staff developing a master/comprehensive spreadsheet across all agencies of all projects. Shouldn't this come first?
 - For detailed program and project reporting, agencies must already meet annual reporting requirements at LCC site; this is already a major annual work item.
 - The current proposal seeks to add value to what's already being reported by individual agencies to LCC by creating a new, harmonized, report that will give the general public a view across agencies, grounded in the 25 Year Plan.
 - Agencies believe the proposed report is doable in 2017 and will advance the common goal of shared outcomes reporting.
 - Once an annual process and product are in place, additional components may be added to provide an even fuller picture of Legacy accomplishments.
 - Need for cross-agency continuity in reporting reiterated
 - Can outcomes reporting be regional? Breaks up the large numbers and connects people to what's closer by.
 - Shared reporting will help tell the story of what Legacy does.
 - There are clearly many connections between the two Work Plan items (2017-18 events, and shared outcomes reporting).

Action: Agencies take this feedback and move forward with benchmarks and communications subcommittees.

5. Work Planning: engagement with Minnesota State Council on Disabilities (MSCOD)

- Liaisons shared that the MSCOD reached out to Legacy agencies on accessibility in Legacy funded projects.
 - MN Council on Disabilities is a relatively small state agency and does not have the capacity to fund a dedicated staff member to work on this.
 - General accessibility language added to the Legacy bill for the first time in 2015 through MSCOD's efforts (see [Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session, chapter 2, art. 3, sec. 2, subd. 3](#))

- Question around how Coordinating Among Partners Funds may be used to better support working together towards improved accessibility
 - Fund an employee in future to work on accessibility?
 - Stipend support for assessment teams to do on the ground evaluation?
- Discussion: LAC strongly supports working with MN Council on Disabilities to strengthen commitment to accessibility in parks.

Ideas and questions included:

- Meeting to learn more about creating/supporting teams to evaluate projects with an accessibility lens.
- Possibility of evaluations including an equity note. For example physical accessibility and ADA compliance, but also language access, impact on people of color, youth.
- Potential model is the Landscape Restoration Evaluations funded through 'Coordinating' funds, spread across the systems (and for Clean Water and LSOHC projects) to report on effectiveness and recommend programmatic adjustments.
- Training for LAC on what true accessibility does – and doesn't – look like at parks and trails.
- Reiteration of how complex this work is and the many layers of laws and policy that shape accessibility requirements.
- Questions would need to be answered about how staff funding might work outside of the Legacy implementing agencies.

Action: New workgroup formed (Wayne, Brian, Randy) to work with agencies and continue conversations with Minnesota Council on Disabilities. Tentative goal is to include MSCOD to part of the LAC meeting in April

6. Updates

- Stefanie Stearns gives update on the integrated website.
 - Data from Met Council and DNR is being sent to MNGeo. MNGeo is helping capture data for GMRPTC.
 - 2/24 website meeting will be the first viewing of the module! Hope to bring more completed website in for LAC review in April or June.
 - Discussion on who will maintain the data and the website.
 - DNR and Met Council will maintain their own data. The module grabs these updates on a regular schedule.
 - The website that wraps the module shouldn't demand a great amount of upkeep, but we do not have an answer at the moment.

Meeting Adjourned

Site Visit

Marc Mattice led a walking tour of Robert Ney Memorial Park Reserve. We were able to see some areas where the park had expanded, restoration efforts, and some local wildlife.