

**Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Itasca State Park – Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center
36750 Main Park Drive
Park Rapids, MN 56470
Thursday, April 28, 2016
9:30 am – 2:30 pm**

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

Tim Mitchell, Brook Maier, Brian Hubbard, Wayne Same, Bob Bierscheid, Jenny Smith, Pat Stieg, Pete Royer, Nancy Hanson, Emmett Mullin, Kathy Bergen, Randy Sorensen, Les Ollila, Erica Rivers, Tom Stoa, Jannik Anderson, Katherine Bloom (via Webex: Renee Evans)

Liaisons: Emmett Mullin, Renee Mattson, Laura Preus Erica Rivers, Mike Hulett, Jan Youngquist

Guests: Bob Chance

Staff: Paul Purman, Kelsey Depew

1. Introductions and welcome [handouts –agenda; Dec draft minutes]

Bob Chance, Park Manager of Itasca State Park, welcomed the committee to Itasca, and provided context for Legacy \$ funding important work at the state park.

Agenda approved

December minutes approved.

We did a quick activity where we got to know the person next to us and then introduced them to the group.

Brian Hubbard and Kathy Bergen were selected by committee to continue as chair and alternate chair, respectively, for 2016.

2. Kick off 2016 Legacy Assessments process – Greater Minnesota (GM) presentation

Paul introduced Renee Mattson and runs through what to keep in mind while following along with the presentation.

- GM presents its accomplishments and strategic directions looking forward into the 18/19 biennium.
- Opportunity to hear about GM's directions, successes, challenges, how people are better off, and for the LAC to ask questions and provide comments.
- What else do you need from GM?

Next Meeting-June 23, 2016

Committee Actions Required

Attend subcommittee meetings as scheduled.

New members pick a subcommittee to serve on, let Paul know.

Staff and Liaison Actions Required

Tasks as identified below in these notes.

Field visit. Itasca SP manager Bob On the afternoon of Wednesday, April 27, Bob Chance led a group field visit of Legacy funded (or proposed, or eligible) sites in the park.

During the presentation, a couple questions were posed about the funding application process. How do they rank projects?

- Renee describes the master plan portal toolkit. It is a free tool for anyone to use – nothing else like it nationally as far as they can tell. It is located on the Greater Minnesota website. <http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/>
- There are 8 to 13 people on the district planning committee. They are always looking for new members for the committees. <http://www.gmrptcommission.org/news>

Lunch

Draft Legacy Fund information mini-tent cards were handed out to members, comments requested to communications subcommittee. Purpose would be to provide a small, engaging, item to hand out when discussing Legacy, which would provide enough information for users to follow up online.

3. Discussion/Question on GM Presentation

Paul asked a couple of question to the committee.

As you listen to the greater Minnesota presentation, what did you find yourself particularly paying attention to?

- Making parks for people dynamic
- Progress
- Criteria and accountability
- How do you measure success? What is the criteria
- Planning for past, present, future
- The video was compelling to see what the public thinks of funding
- Thoughtful voices, “Can’t wait to cross the Coulee”
- District variability needs for resources
- Master Planning Portal(x2) – not every community has the experience to write a master plan. So this tool helps support everyone in Greater Minnesota
- Budding – everything is just starting out, before it blooms
- Responsibility and responsiveness
- Regionally significant projects
- Standards and expectations of projects
- History of how things are put together. Things will always stay the same if you use the same criteria.
- Putting people in groups together to find projects
- Conflict and emerging systems
- Fostering sponsorships
- Number of projects and the mission/vision of Greater Minnesota, and the number of projects that are happening around the state.

What surprised or excited you during the presentation?

- The research in communities to understand needs
- The new projects that are coming through GM in the form of applications

- Progress of systems in such a short time.
- The online portal
- District planning committees being closer to home
- The connection to plan to the DNR and Met Council and the legacy plan
- All the prototypes – projects that are responsive to the rural community

Where did you find yourself being confused or skeptical?

- Wanting to know more about the priorities. More details. Connections to population centers
- Want to know more about how projects are connecting people to the outdoors. How are youth being involved in the decisions/decision making processes.
- Getting people out there using the parks and trails. Connecting them to the outdoors.
- What will the results determine and how are those results shaping the future projects.

What insights or observations did you have about the 25 year priority strategies when listening to the presentation and this conversation?

- Concerned about when you have achieved success. How do you know when you have succeeded?
- List out projects to strategies and benchmarks
- Can we sustain these projects that we are creating?
- Long term plan for maintain new facilities during and at the end of 25 years?
- How do projects demonstrate long term planning for sustainability?
- Concerns about substitute/supplement funding
- Smart rehab that costs less to maintain
- Clarifying rehab vs. maintenance operations
- Too many priorities – how to narrow and make choices?
- Measuring success – common definitions
- Prototype projects and how they can help achieve priorities.

What information do you find yourself wanting or needing to provide strategic advice?

- Does GM plan have specific targets?
- Over 25 years, priorities will change. How to manage?
- There is a mix of how to work toward priorities at different parks and trails, e.g., older parks and trails have different need and roles than newer parks and trails.
- Want to hear more stories of project success.
- More information on master planning tool/videos.
- A list of what the project is, how much money was spent, what pillar it reaches, where it is at, and what the intentions were from the start.
- Grant application information - collect important information about where, when, what, why, & how much.

What have we not talked about yet about Greater Minnesota funding process that needs to be said?

- Are grants still going through Minnesota DNR? Yes. Hopefully a year from Greater Minnesota will take over.

Good conversation about directions. What next? **[ACTION – PAUL AND THE BENCHMARK SUBCOMMITTEE WILL WORK WITH RENEE ON ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED COMING OUT OF THIS DISCUSSION].**

Renee thanks everyone for their comments and attention to detail. Greater Minnesota welcomes all of the constructive criticism.

Important updates

- Legislative update
 - o Chair Urdahl and the MN House Legacy Funding Finance Committee has held several meetings this session. They held a hearing on the recent Legislative Audit of several funds, including the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund **[ACTION – PAUL WILL SEND MEMBERS [LINK TO THE AUDIT](#)]**. An item of interest to the committee is to strengthen language in legislation to ensure that proposed funding for Legacy programs and projects is indeed supplemental, not substituting. Chair Urdahl offered language to require additional reporting on the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. Three agencies have presented information to the committee and are working together to consistently address any new language.
 - o 40-40-20 funding split has not come up during the legislative meetings.
- Status of UM Survey work
 - o UM are set to do the survey work this summer. All three agencies worked with the UM to develop the questions, the sites to be surveyed, and the sampling schedule. **[PAUL WILL DISTRIBUTE THE LATEST UM SURVEY HANDBOOK THAT IS BEING USED TO COLLECT INFORMATION CONSISTENTLY ACROSS THE THREE SYSTEMS]**.
- Integrated website
 - o Good progress. Agencies have been meeting with MNGEO and MNIT. Again, the goal is seamless, easy access to information about the outdoors. User studies will be done. Randy suggested we contact SSB (State Services for Blind) to help with creating the website.
- Subcommittee reports/updates
 - o Handouts were passed out about the subcommittees.
- Other
 - o Brian showed examples of Story Maps. He proposed doing a story map to show past legacy funded projects.
 - 1) Gitchi-Gami State Trail Interactive Map Tour:
<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=82f6cc703dae4f30bb7fe31c9c90711e&webmap=ccadb67380a64fcef4902c082d400c5>
 - 2) Example: <http://maps.raleighnc.gov/yourparksbond/>

Meeting Adjourned