

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Silverwood Park
October 31, 2012
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

M I N U T E S

Present: Tom Stoa, Bob Bierscheid, Chuck Kartak, Jenny Smith, Kathy Bergen, Nancy Hanson, Brian Hubbard, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Rick Anderson, Jan Shaw-Wolff, Glenda Phillipe
Liaisons: Arne Stefferud, Courtland Nelson, Chuck Wocken
Guests: Mike Kimball, City of St. Paul; Kirk Pederson, Rice, Michels & Walther, LLP
Staff: Laurie Young, Colin Kelly

The State's Demographic Shift – Jane Tigan, Researcher, Wilder Foundation, MN Compass
Jane Tigan

Jane Tigan made a presentation via webinar on demographic trends and population changes.

Information presented focused on overall population growth, the aging population, diversity, health, education, and poverty. The purpose of this presentation was to ensure that the Legacy Advisory Committee is well grounded in the state's demographic trends so that these trends will inform their recommendations regarding implementation of the *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan* and in their analysis of equitable distribution of park and trail legacy funds. See Attachment 1 for a copy of the powerpoint.

Following are questions and comments made by the committee.

- What are the implications for outdoor recreation?
- Aging – How do older people want to use parks and trails? Will they behave like older people now? Additional research is needed. What are young people going to do? There has been a decline in youth sports participation, particularly if there's a fee.
- We need to be relevant given the trends.
- We need to learn cultural dynamics. How are things different now? What about baby boomers who don't have money? We need to step back from ways the dominant culture has participated in recreational opportunities
- We need to be open in a different way.
- We need to equitably apply resources to demographic segments.
- Research has shown that what makes a difference in closing the achievement gap is experiential learning combined with a caring adult. More needs to be done with this approach.

An appropriate role of the committee is to review Park and Trail Legacy expenditures and provide feedback on whether or not funds are being distributed equitably to population segments, addressing issues of accessibility, poverty, and diversity.

Funding Committee Report – Emmett Mullin, Planner, Office of Management and Budget Services; and Emily Franklin and Eric David, Environmental Initiatives

Emmett Mullin, Emily Franklin and Eric David gave an overview of the work of the Funding Committee.

The purpose of the nine member group was to develop consensus recommendations for the allocation of the Parks and Trails Legacy fund. There were three members appointed by DNR, three appointed by the Metropolitan Council, and three members appointed by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coalition. The committee met six times and came to consensus. Outcomes of their work were:

- Consensus recommendation on the allocation of funds for 6 years using the best information available
 - Commitment to obtain relevant data for future allocation
- Provides resources for ongoing collaboration
- Recognized need for more flexibility and capacity building in Greater Minnesota
- Identified the complementary roles of all three park and trail provider systems
 - Opportunities to learn from one another; systems are more alike than different

The Committee also recommended that the Legacy Advisory Committee take on the following:

- Oversee process to define and collect data for future allocations.
- Establish priorities for how the Coordinate Among Partners Fund should be spent.
- Support the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coalition with capacity building.

A final report will be out shortly. It will be posted on the Environmental Initiatives website.

www.environmental-initiative.org/projects/parks-and-trails-legacy-funding-project

It will be posted on the Legacy Advisory Committee website when it is up and running.

See Attachment 2 for a copy of their powerpoint.

Action: A letter of support for the Funding Committee's recommendations will be drafted, reviewed by the Legacy Advisory Committee members, and finalized.

Governance Committee Update – Lynnea Atlas- Ingebretson

Lynnea reviewed the edits that were submitted on the charter. The following edit will be made to 4.21

Work to standardize matching requirements for related state funding sources to a percentage 25-local match.

The question was raised as to what the policy should be regarding the situation of multiple absences by a member. The committee recommended that it is the role of the convening sponsors to take action, including removal if it is warranted.

Work is still being done on what the committee is obligated to in terms of behavior. Are we held to the same behavior as state employees in terms conflict of interest, ethics and other.

Decision Making by Consensus – Laura Preus, Assistant Administrator, DNR Office of Management and Budget Services,

Laura gave an overview of decision-making by consensus.

She distributed a useful model of public participation from the International Association for Public Participation that ranges from inform to consult to involve to collaborate to empower. Advisory groups tend to have/hold the “collaborate” role

Consensus and Informed Consent

Consensus means striving for full agreement and strong commitment. Informed consent means that everyone can at least live with the direction or recommendation of the group. The terms are often used interchangeably. This committee will be striving for informed consent. The word “consensus” is used in our charter, but we will define it as informed consent. Consensus decision-making is a process used by groups seeking to generate widespread levels of participation and agreement. When striving to achieve informed consent it is important to recognize there is often a range of support within the group and it is important to check-in with the group and see where individual are at.

Laura’s powerpoint included a list of Tips for Advisory Groups. See Attachment 3 for a copy of the powerpoint.

Three types of individual committee member satisfaction were described.

1. Substantive satisfaction - Appropriate topics covered
2. Procedural satisfaction - Valid, inclusionary process
3. Psychological satisfaction - Individual roles in decision making process

If these three satisfaction types are achieved collectively, the likelihood for success is greater.

Communications – Social Media

Website

What items do we post or share?

- Roster of members, contact information (?), brief bio, group and/or individual pictures
- Minutes, notes
- Information; guiding documents, handouts
- Committee products
- Charter and attachments

- Helpful resources
- Group e-mail address
- Presentations provided by guests

Where do we post this information? Website: Parks & Trails Fund (www.legacy.leg.mn)

- The Environmental Initiative website may be a good model. (www.environmental-initiative.org/projects)

What about internal communication? We could consider using Google Groups for internal communication

Facebook

There is a Parks and Trails Legacy Facebook page that was developed during the Park and Trail Legacy Planning Process. It was developed by the Citizen's League, the consultant that designed and managed the public input process for the Legacy Plan. There are 119 likes/followers.

The Committee could agree on brief, appropriate Facebook post during meetings

Need to figure out how to transition from Citizens' League administration to our own

Action: Lynnea has contacted Citizens' League and is waiting to hear back

Twitter

A Twitter account was also developed for the Legacy Planning Process by the Citizen's League.

@MNParksLegacy. There are 74 followers. Need to transition from Citizen League's administration to our own

Subcommittee Update

A new subcommittee is needed to develop the set of measurements to compare regional systems. This work was recommended by the Funding Committee. Their work needs to be finished by July 1, 2014.

It was recommended that time on the agenda be scheduled for sub committees to meet.

Member Replacement – What perspective should be added?

John Filardo, DNR Engineer from Bemidji, had to leave for personal reasons. He brought skills in facility design and development. Courtland asked if there was another skill set that the committee would benefit from. The committee suggested the following

- Social science research?
- A younger person (under 22)?

- Met Council, Parks and Open Space Commission appointee
- Look to pool of Legacy Plan Youth Outreach/Advisory Committee?
- A person of color?
- Communications background?
- Review stack of original applicants

Question - Is it more about skill set or what region/area they “represent”? The answer is they are both factors.

Action: Courtland will use this advice and appoint a replacement.

Future Meetings

Action: A survey will be developed to check- in with committee members including questions such as:

- ***How have meetings gone so far?***
- ***How can we be more open? How can we create a culture where we are al more comfortable sharing? Are we there yet?***
- ***Do we consider a third-party facilitator that is separated from the committee (e.g. for certain topics, like the budget?***

Meetings will be located in both the Metro Area and Greater Minnesota. At least 3 meetings a year will be located in Greater Minnesota.

Requirements for meetings include access to the internet and availability of conference calling equipment. We want to ensure that committee members can attend from remote locations when they are unable to personally attend the meetings.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 24th. Next year’s meetings are scheduled as follows:

January 24th
 March 28th
 May 23rd
 July 25th
 September 26th
 December 5th

Summary of Action Items

Action: A letter of support for the Funding Committee’s recommendations will be drafted, reviewed by the Legacy Advisory Committee members, and finalized.

Action: Laurie will connect with the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund website manager to confirm we can use this website

Action: A group photo will be taken at the next meeting. Laurie will coordinate getting a photographer at the next meeting.

Action: Lynnea has contacted Citizens' League and will report back on what she learns about transferring administration of the site.

Action: Courtland will use this advice and appoint a replacement.

Action: A survey will be developed to check-in with committee members including questions such as:

- ***How have meetings gone so far***
- ***How can we be more open? How can we create a culture where we are all more comfortable sharing? Are we there yet?***
- ***Do we consider a third-party facilitator that is separated from the committee (e.g. for certain topics, like the budget?)***