

**Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting
Hartley Nature Center**

3001 Woodland Avenue

Duluth, MN 55042

June 27, 2013

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

M I N U T E S

Members present: Rick Anderson, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Kathy Bergen, Bob Bierscheid, Nancy Hanson, Chuck Kartak, Dwight Morrison, Glenda Phillipe, Tom Ryan, Wayne Sames, Jan Shaw Wolff, Tom Stoa, Barry Warner, Tony Yarusso,

Agency Liaisons: Courtland Nelson, Arne Stefferud, Laird Mork

Guests: Mike Kimball, City of St. Paul - via WebEx

Staff: Laurie Young, Colin Kelly, Darin Newman

1. Welcome to Hartley Nature Center

Mayor Don Ness welcomed the committee to Duluth and thanked them for their service to the State. He gave an overview of the Hartley Nature Center.

2. Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

It was noted that the 1:30 agenda item, Role of the Legacy Advisory Committee Relative to Trails was held over so that the meeting can adjourn at 2:00 for a site visit to the Lakewalk extension project, a Park and Trail Legacy funded project.

There were no changes to the minutes.

3. Legislative Update

Courtland Nelson gave an overview of the DNR portion of the Parks and Trails Legacy Appropriation. DNR was appropriated \$25,431,000 for FY 14 and \$25,637,000 for FY 15. These amounts include the appropriation for the Regional Grant programs. The money was directed to:

1. Connect people to the outdoors
2. Acquire land and create opportunities
3. Maintain existing holdings
4. Improve cooperation by coordinating with partners to implement the 25 Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

These four areas are the strategic directions identified in the *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*.

Next Meeting:

8/22, 8:00 am – 2:30 pm. Brower Visitor Center, Itasca State Park

Committee Actions Required

Tony Yarusso will work with the Citizens League to draw up a formal proposal to maintain the Citizing site.

Tom Stoa will contact staff at the Parks and Trails Council regarding a partnership.

Glenda will contact the Association of Minnesota Counties.

Complete the demographic and skills-based survey when you receive it.

Chuck will find out how Lessard-Sams projects are signed and report at the next meeting.

Staff and Liaison Actions Required:

Send thank you notes to the list of legislators that were sent letter of support for the 40-40-20 funding split.

Conduct a power mapping exercise to identify potential advocate partners.

Develop press release on successes and notices of meetings.

Send Laurie the Volunteer Agreement and Social Security form so that your expenses for travel and lodging can be reimbursed.

Develop talking points for speaking to local government units, community groups, citizens, etc. when they ask for support for individual projects.

Appropriations for specific grant projects were included in the law.

It was mandated that “by January 15, 2015 the commissioner shall submit a list of projects, ranked in priority order that contains the Department of Natural Resources’ recommendations for funding from the parks and trails fund for the 2016-2017 biennium to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources and the parks and trails fund.” Courtland suggested that the committee could review the lists in relation to the *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*.

Arne gave a summary of the Metropolitan Council’s portion of the law. The Metropolitan Council was appropriated \$16,821,000 for FY 14, and \$16,953,000 for FY 15. A list of specific grant projects and specific dollar amounts for those projects was included in the language. The Metropolitan Council is also required to submit a list of projects ranked in priority order similar to the requirement for the DNR above.

Laird Mork gave an overview of the language that established the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. The purpose of the commission is to undertake system planning and provide recommendations to the legislature for grants funded by the parks and trails fund to counties and cities outside the seven county metro area. The commission will be comprised of 13 members appointed by the governor, two members from each of the districts and one at large. Appointments were to be made by June 15 2013 and the first meeting held by July 15th

An appropriation for support of the Legacy Advisory Committee was included:

“\$200,000 the first year and \$207,000 the second year are for enhanced, integrated, and accessible Web-based information for park and trail users; joint marketing and promotional efforts for all parks and trails of regional or statewide significance; and support of activities of a parks and trails legacy advisory committee. Of this amount, \$100,000 the first year and \$103,000 the second year are for Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission capacity building.”

The University of Minnesota, Center for Changing Landscapes was appropriated \$250,000 to update the inventory and framework they previously developed and to develop a standardized survey tool to be used by DNR, Metro Council and providers of parks and trails of regional or statewide significance to determine visitation.

A discussion about how the committee can continue to become relevant and effective took place. The following comments were made:

- Make efforts to meet with legislators and introduce them to the *Legacy Plan* and make it local
- Develop news releases around success stories and accomplishments and link to the *Legacy Plan*
- Use the web site effectively
- Find champions to partner with
- Help facilitate tours
- Lay out visits for advocates/supporters
- Connect with formal and informal power structures

Action: Conduct a power mapping exercise to identify potential advocate partners.

4. Subcommittee Meetings

Subcommittee meetings were held between 11:00 and noon

5. Subcommittee Reports

Governance Subcommittee

Lynnea reported that a meeting was held with the DNR, Metro Council and Greater Minnesota to discuss the future of the committee, their work, what they need to succeed and what staff resources are available for support.

Two additional surveys have been developed and will be distributed to the committee shortly - a demographic survey and a skills-based survey. They have been reviewed by DNR communications staff. Their purpose is to help assess the make-up of our committee, and to identify gaps. This information will be used when members are replaced.

Youth Subcommittee

Nothing to report at this time.

Benchmarks Subcommittee

The subcommittee will put together a process for the LAC to use in assessing progress made towards achieving the 5 year priorities identified in the *Legacy Plan*. First, the subcommittee will develop a ranking of which 5 year priorities the Committee should address first.

Also, the subcommittee will break out acquisition and development dollars so that expenditures can be compared across Metro council and DNR.

Communications Subcommittee

A goal of the communications subcommittee is to reactivate citizen engagement through the use of Citizing, developed and maintained by the Citizen's League and used during the Parks and Trails Legacy planning process. This would require \$2,000 annually to maintain site. The subcommittee recommends making this expenditure. It is reasonable cost and has a good value. Tony will work with the Citizen's League to draw up a formal proposal.

The question was raised as to what protocols are in place for recognizing Legacy Funded projects.

Action: Chuck will find out how Lessard-Sams projects are signed and report at the next meeting.

Funding Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed development of objective criteria to validate (or recommend alternatives) to the 40-40-20 split. A meeting among the three partners, plus the University of Minnesota and the Schoenbauers will be scheduled in September to make sure we communicate and collaborate on the

most effective criteria we can use to compare systems, including both quantitative and qualitative criteria.

The committee will report back on at the October meeting and identify next steps.

6. Receiving requests for support from the public

Communications protocol needed (what a committee member should do if they are contacted), and what message should we give people who contact us. Is there any response or reference we should be making?

Lynnea was contacted and requested support for a Legacy grant project. The city of Aitkin received, but was in jeopardy of being declined.

The consensus was that that it is not the role of the Legacy Advisory Committee to address project specific questions. The appropriate role is to refer them to the right people - the appropriate park agency, elected policy board, or director or another staff person. The committee is an advocate for the plan, but not specific projects. We can articulate the positive physical, social and environmental benefits of parks and trails as well .

Action: Develop talking points for speaking to local government units, community groups, citizens, etc. when they ask for support for individual projects.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned and the committee toured the Lakewalk extension trail project in Duluth.