

# **Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting February 23, 2023**

*MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND WERE REVIEWED ON APRIL 27, 2023.*



02/23/2023

## Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

### Updates and Announcements:

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 27, 2023

**Host:** Metropolitan Regional Parks

**Location:** Theodore Wirth Regional Park

### Action Items:

- DNR staff will post the approved meeting minutes on the LCC Website.

### Meeting Minutes:

**Members:** Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Steve Dubbs, Janice Erickson, Cecily Harris, Gina Hugo, Matthew Lindaman, Sumbal Mahmud (Absent), Allison Mark (Absent), Dolf Moon, Jon Oyanagi, Jim Shoberg, Heather Stirratt, Dan Trudeau

**Liaisons:** Emmett Mullin (Met Council), Renee Mattson (GMRPTC), Ann Pierce (Absent), Laura Preus (DNR)

**Staff:** Lars Erdahl (DNR), Kaci Warneke (DNR)

**This meeting was changed from hybrid to fully online via Webex due to winter weather warnings and hazardous travel conditions.**

**Jon Oyanagi opened the meeting and led an ice-breaker activity.**

### Action Items:

- Approved February 23, 2023 PTLAC meeting agenda, reviewed the conflict of interest statement, and member expectations/roles.
- Approved October 27, 2022 PTLAC Meeting Minutes.
- Approved December 8, 2022 PTLAC Meeting Minutes.

### PTLAC Business Items

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#### 2023 Chair & Alternate Chair selection

The committee discussed roles of Chair and Alternate Chair and invited discussion. Nobody had followed up with staff since December 8, 2022 PTLAC meeting to express interest in a serving role. After discussion and nomination.

**Action Item:**

- Approved by consensus, Jon Oyanagi as Chair and Janice Erickson as Alternate Chair.

**2023 Meeting Schedule**

**Action Item:**

- Approved the 2023 meeting schedule.

Note: Because of the shift to full remote due to winter weather advisories, it was noted that today's site visit to the "Why Treaties Matter" exhibit at the Capitol could be postponed; perhaps until the next PTLAC meeting.

**Charter Updates**

Changes and edits of the Charter were presented to the committee at the December 8, 2022 meeting and tabled to allow for any additional consideration. Draft updates were proposed by staff to increase flexibility to balance term overlap and work toward improved continuity by seeking applications for new members every other year rather than every year.

**Action Item:**

- Approved Charter updates by consensus

**Legacy Partners Legislative Presentation**

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(Laura Preus, Emmett Mullen, Renee Matson)

A presentation about the Legacy funds and how they are managed and invested by each of the three implementing agencies; Department of Natural Resources, Metro Regional Parks, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission is presented. (The same presentation was provided for the House Legacy Finance Committee hearing on 2/8/23)

Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment is split into four funds, one of them is Parks and Trails, which receives 14.25% of funding.

The 25-Year Parks and Trails Plan describes the strategic direction and goals of implementing these funds for a seamless, integrated and welcoming parks and trails system.

The four pillars/strategic priorities; Connect People and the Outdoors, Acquire Land and Create Opportunities, Take Care of What We Have, and Coordinate Among Partners.

Legacy funding was initiated after a general election vote in 2008, was initiated in 2011 and sunsets in 2035.

Emmett Mullen (Met Council), Laura Preus (DNR), and Renee Matson (GMRPTC) detail how Legacy funds are implemented in their agencies, and provide examples of Legacy funded projects.

**Questions and Discussion**

- How do you track annual visits?
  - Visits are tracked by intercept surveys. This type of survey is an estimate but valid data.
- Does streetlight track on the weekend?

- Data is collected at various times in the summer, which includes weekends.
- Is there a list of Libraries on the Library Pass program?
  - Look into a finding a library list. This program targets libraries in low income areas with demonstrates economic need.
- How was the presentation received at the hearing? What kind of questions were there?
  - It was well-received. There were many questions on access and accessibility, and what kind of projects are in the Representatives districts. Many questions about trails as well.
- What is the actual dollar amount of the distribution of money between the three agencies? The 40%, 40%, 20% distribution?
  - \$52 Million for DNR and Metro Regional Parks, \$26 million for Greater Minnesota for the biennium. This current proposal will be adjusted according the February economic forecast updates, voted on in the legislature and signed by the governor before becoming final.
- How does the Clean Water Funds factor in here?
  - Clean Water participated in a hearing similar to ours, all of the funds were invited to a hearing.
- What is the interaction between funds?
  - Not many opportunities. Considered partnering with Arts and Culture funds for our Art in Parks and Trails initiative. The way these funds are set up allow each one to focus on their priorities.

## Break for Lunch

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## DRAFT DNR Parks and Trails Fund Strategic Directions Report – FY 2024-25

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(Laura Preus, Lars Erdahl, DNR)

Laura begins by sharing the draft Parks and Trail Legacy Fund Strategic Directions Report. Outlines how the DNR is approaching Parks and Trails Legacy Fund investments, and what is planned for the next biennium (Fiscal Years 2024-25).

Defines all the high level priorities within the DNR parks and trails system, and shows the consistency with the direction of the 25-year plan.

25-Year Plan, including the four pillars, the partnerships with Metro Regional Parks, Greater Minnesota, and the PAT Legacy Advisory Committee help guide Legacy priorities.

Legacy is a part of the DNR Parks and Trails work, so they try to align the priorities of the two focuses.

Shows the proposed FY24/25 Biennial Legacy Allocation by pillar, and each priorities/goals, including some proposed projects.

### Questions/Discussion

- What does 'Consult and Collaborate with tribal government' mean and look like?
  - This area has been dramatically emphasized compared to the previous years. The DNR is intentionally trying to say that this is a priority within the department. They are making

an effort to be better at working with tribal communities at all levels of department work.

- What level of priority is checking culturally inappropriate things in State Parks?
  - It is an important priority to the department as a whole, but it is not included in this document since it is not Legacy specific. The Visitor Services and Outreach section the Parks and Trails division, has acknowledged this to be serious issue that requires action. There is an Interpretive Naturalist group that collects and gathers info on where culturally inappropriate things may be located. There is a push to accelerate this change and Legacy allows us to do so.
- When we are in these moments of change, it would be a good time to give land acknowledgments. It is a way to meet tribal members in the middle and further the healing process.
- It is also important to have non-capital investments...Like communication and marketing and how we are correcting our mistakes.
- Are there any discounts on cabins or camping for disadvantaged people?
  - There are sliding costs certain people. The I Can Camp! program is aimed to introduce and help people introduce new people to recreation activities.
- Include/invite PAT Legacy advisory members to legislative hearings and other legislative business. There is also a stronger story around Covid-19, those high visitation numbers have sustained. We should use this story more.
  - Historically members are present at legislative matter, the committee can informed when another opportunity arises.
  - DNR has data on the sustained high visitation numbers and there are many conversations on what this change means.
- There should be interaction between the Legislators and this committee since we represent the state.

## Updates

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The State Legislature is currently in session. The proposed 2023 Minnesota DNR Budget is posted on the DNR website at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo/>

- The department has put an emphasis and investing in outdoor recreation and connecting people to the outdoors
- \$142 Million in initiatives

## DNR

- DNR partnered with Wilder Research Center for the most recent Visitor Survey.
  - 60% of visits are day visits
  - 11% increase in BIPOC visitors; 45% of visitors of color are new park visitors

## GMRPTC

- Mountain Bike Trail Development guidelines are in design phase, to be released end of March.

### **Met Council**

- Busy with this legislative session.
- Discussing the balance between the demand in certain facilities, like mountain bike trails, and how many of these facilities are necessary.
  - Always consider plants and animals in the balance of building more trails and facilities with in parks. Always think what the appropriate balance is.

### **Action Items**

- Any committee feedback can be submitted between meetings.
- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 27 at Theodore Wirth Regional Park

### **Adjourn**