

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

February 27, 2025

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON APRIL 24, 2025.



***The mission of the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee is
“to champion the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan by providing
recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination, and
accountability throughout implementation of the plan.”***

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

In-person at Robert Ney Regional Park, Wright County, MN

And virtual via WebEx

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025

Meeting Host: MNDNR

Meeting Location: tbd

Action Items:

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

Meeting Minutes:

Members: Janice Erickson, Steve Dubbs, Gina Hugo, Jim Shoberg, Dllona Clendenen, Dozier Hunter, Robert Klatt, Mitchell Travis, Eileen Lewis, Leila Farah, Derek Madsen, Dolf Moon, Dan Trudeau

Liaisons: Emmett Mullin (Met Council), Renee Mattson (GMRPTC), Laura Preus (DNR)

Staff: Lars Erdahl (DNR), Luisa Cichowski (DNR), Joe Czapiewski (GMRPTC)

Guests: Brad Harington, Wright County Parks & Recreation Operations Manager; Ross Demant, Wright County Parks & Recreation Director; Carson Law, Wright County Programs & Recreation Specialist

PTLAC approved meeting agenda and approved December 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Lars Erdahl opened the meeting and members did a quick round of introductions.

Robert Ney Regional Park Introduction and Legacy Projects

Brad Harrington, Wright County Parks & Recreation Operations Manager

Ross Demant, Wright County Parks & Recreation Director

- Shared park background and information about projects they were able to implement at Robert Ney Park due to Legacy funding:
 - Implemented a new trail lighting project to make the trails safer for nighttime walks. Talked about the construction challenges to implementation.
 - They also touched on a new project they are working on with the MNPAIR program and artist Lindsay Buck.

MNPAIR at Robert Ney Regional Park and Two Inlets

Brad Harrington, Robert Ney Parks and Recreation Operations Manager

Gina Hugo, PTLAC Member Sherburne County Parks Director

Renee Matson, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

- Renee gave an overview of the program, saying there are a few park locations doing the MNPAIR program, and 2-4 parks per artist.
- At Robert Ney Park, the artist in residence is Lindsay Buck. Artists were charged with creating a project that would add something welcoming to the parks and take shape through community input.
- Gina talked about Lindsay's project at the site of a new park in Sherburne County, Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park. Lindsay is creating signs about local native plants at the park. She is using imagery derived from pressed plants and botanical drawings when appropriate. She is writing plant names in Ojibwe, Dakota, and English on the signs and sharing short descriptions of the plants based on her research into TEK and discussions with Knowledge Keepers. She is sharing only what is allowed to be shared in a wider context.

- This project has helped the developing park build stronger tribal relations more broadly, with regular communication with more organizations like THPOs and Full Circle Indigenous Planning and Design in the park development process and throughout the MNPAIR project.
- There will also an app that goes along with the signage.
- PTLAC input and discussion on the project.
 - Concerns about using TEK responsibly, emphasizing the need to share only what is allowed to be shared, because sharing TEK is based on relationships of trust and respect.
 - Necessity to share about respect for the plants and gratefulness to them in the signage.
 - Important to include tribal youth in future events and engagement at the park.
 - Members also raised questions about why an app was chosen vs. a website, and the implications for accessibility. Presenters clarified that an app was chosen because it is most functional in areas with low cell service.
 - Members also expressed wanting to be a larger part of the process for giving input into MNPAIR artist selection, and presenters and staff clarified what the artist selection process had been. Discussed whether the Forecast Public Arts evaluator and/or other staff could participate in a future meeting.
 - This led to a conversation about communication between the PTLAC and Legacy Liaisons more generally, where some members expressed wanting more communication channels for the committee, specifically: wanting to better understand how their feedback is being implemented, what Legacy programs/events are happening which they can promote in their communities, what messaging they can bring back to their communities, and what the Legacy funding cycles are.
 - One member also suggested that in the PTLAC onboarding process, new members should discuss and learn about annual goals for the year.
 - Members requested that the Liaisons put the PTLAC's mission on the agenda each week.

Lunch

“Outdoors for Everyone” Booklet update:

- Renee and others shared updates about the booklet, which will be printed and handed out to the PTLAC members at the next meeting. The booklet overviews some projects done with Legacy funding, representing a wide variety from many different pillars.
- PTLAC members brought up questions regarding the climate resiliency of making snow, which is part of one of the projects highlighted.
- Question about whether Legacy funding would be affected by funding changes at the federal level and encouraged Liaisons to be proactive about this.

Facility Tour

Brad Harrington, Wright County Parks & Recreation Operations Manager
Carson Law, Wright County Parks & Recreation Specialist

(Trails were too muddy to explore the facility, so staff provided an overview and visit to the program/equipment space in lower level of visitor center.)

- Legacy has been a game-changing for their park and discussed the wide range of programs that they are able to do because of Legacy funding. They then led the group on a tour of the park’s meeting facility/community center.
- A PTLAC member reminded presenters of the importance of having free access to events and recreational space, especially for children.

Adjourn
