

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting, July 12, 2018

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING ON OCTOBER 25, 2018

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Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Kensington Rune Stone Regional Park
8965 County Rd 103 SW
Kensington, MN 56343
July 12, 2018
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Updates and Announcements

Next Meeting: October 25, 2018
Meeting Host: Department of Natural Resources
TBD

Committee Actions Required: See items 1 (posting meeting minutes), 3 (Douglas County Fair), 5 (sharing additional information on Household Outdoor Activities Survey), and 6 (Coordinated research) below.

M I N U T E S

Members Present:

Bob Bierscheid, Louise Segreto, May Yang, Nancy Hanson, Poppy Potter, Pete Royer, Pat Stieg, Tom Stoa, Wayne Sames, May Yang (via Webex: Kathy Bergen, Katherine Bloom, Margot Imdieke-Cross, Randy Sorensen)

Liaisons: Renee Mattson (via WebEx: Emmett Mullin, Laura Preus)

Guests: Arielle Courtney, Jon Oyanagi, Brad Bonk, members of Douglas County Board

Staff: Paul Purman, Scott Struelens

1. Welcome

Bob Bierscheid opens the meeting, and Douglas County Parks director Brad Bonk welcomes group and provides background on Kensington Rune Stone Park, highlighted history of park and Legacy funded projects.

Agenda and previous meeting (April) minutes approved.

Action – Staff submit approved minutes to LCC for posting on PTLAC website

2. Wrap up discussion of Tenth Anniversary Events – and next steps

Bob Bierscheid gave a PowerPoint presentation on the regional Parks and Trails Legacy events, and lavishly thanked all who contributed to their success. Group was enthusiastic about the celebrate/educate/listen model adopted for these 2018 celebrations. Bob lead discussion of what the final report of the events will look like, and how it may be incorporated into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process DNR has underway.

3. State Fair Legacy update

In lieu of Brook Maier (who was unable to attend), Paul Purman gave an overview of the planning for the PAT Legacy State Fair exhibit, to open in August. Brook has been leading a team that includes Bob B, the liaisons, Stefanie Stearns, Amy Ellison (who runs the overall DNR PAT presence at the State Fair), Scott Struelens, and Paul, as well as the newly hired consulting firm, MOD and Co, which is developing the exhibit graphics and pieces. Paul reviewed the layout and shared draft graphics, seeking input from the group. Also requested members and agency staff to sign up for volunteer shifts at the Fair. Members of the Douglas County Board invited the group to bring PAT Legacy information to the County Fair in August. **Action – Paul will follow up with Douglas County about possibly having a Legacy presence at the County Fair.**

4. Liaison Updates

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GM; Renee Mattson)

- GM is developing a logo, which will be unveiled soon!
- Funding applications for projects within designated regional facilities are due July 31st. Visit www.gmrptcommission.org for more information.

DNR Parks and Trails (Laura Preus)

- The Annual Governor's Innovation Award was awarded to the Parks RX project, led by Arielle Courtney, key park staff, and HealthPartners. This project helped get doctors to talk with patients about the health benefits of outdoor recreation, and piloted activities in state parks.
- DNR staff are seeing lots of people coming through state parks system.
- Responding to floods so far this year has been a major topic for staff.
- One legislative session has now finished (Bonding session), getting ready for next and thinking about next biennial budget.
- DNR PAT Organizational alignment has been ongoing to understand department priorities. Lots of staffing vacancies are beginning to be filled.
- PAT continue to articulate and plan for the research needs of division.
- Staff are working on the [division's system plan](#) and how we keep it ready for the future and adapt it to changing circumstances.
- DNR PAT Visitor Services longtime manager Pat Arndt has retired; DNR PAT planning supervisor Rachel Hopper has been promoted to that position.

Metropolitan Council (Emmett Mullin)

- Emmett has finished the draft of the 2018 update to the Met Council's [2040 Regional Park Policy Plan](#). It will now undergo agency and public review and revision before adoption.
- He has hired two new staff, new parks planner and new parks ambassador
- Jon Oyanagi, who has been attending PTLAC meetings for the past couple of years with Emmett, is retiring in September. The group wished him well.

5. Household Survey results and discussion

DNR PAT planner Arielle Courtney presented a Powerpoint on the recently concluded statewide household on outdoor activities survey done by DNR. This is the first statewide survey of this time in over a decade. There were many questions and much discussion on the methods and findings. Group believed it important to share the survey results as widely as possible, including with the MRPA, state conference and Explore MN Tourism. [The full report](#) is on the DNR website. **Action - Arielle will follow up by sending out the link to the report and additional information to the group.**

6. Coordinated research agenda for the next biennium

Renee Mattson continued the discussion begun at the April LAC meeting on research funded by the 'Coordinating with Partners' shared Legacy funding. The agencies want the input of the committee.

There are many areas of research that could be pursued.

- For instance, GMRPTC just sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) about mountain biking in GM District 1 & 2. There's a need for good information about the demand for mountain biking facilities, as well as other activities like OHV and snowmobiling, and how regional and state units connect (or don't connect).
- Met Council Regional Policy & Research Manager Joel Huting joined the meeting, and noted that his group has been doing research about park visitor origins and destinations/'travelsheds' capturing traffic behavior in the metro region. There are interesting methods being developed now using cell phones as a lower cost substitute for in-person visitor intercepts.
- **Action - Agency liaisons will meet to discuss options in more detail and share plans with this group moving forward.**

7. General Updates

- In the absence of project manager Stefanie Stearns, Paul gave a brief tour of the recently launched MN Great Outdoors website. Thanks to everyone in the group who helped make it possible. Let us know what you think so we can continue to improve it!

Meeting adjourned @ 2:30 PM.