

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting December 2, 2021

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED AND WILL BE REVIEWED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022.



12/02/2021

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 2, 2021

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: February 24, 2022

Meeting Host: Department of Natural Resources

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Action Items:

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

Meeting Minutes:

Members: Alysa Delgado Misfeldt, Andrea Christoffer, Cathy Jordan, Cecily Harris, Dan Trudeau, Dolf Moon, Heather Stirratt, Janice Erickson(absent), Jim Shoberg, Jon Oyanagi, Les Ollila, Matthew Lindaman, May Yang, Randy Sorensen, Steve Dubbs, Sumbal Mahmud(absent)

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

Staff: Lars Erdahl (DNR)

Jon Oyanagi opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

PTLAC approved meeting agenda and reviewed conflict of interest statement and member expectations/roles.

Approved of July and October's 2021 PTLAC meeting minutes.

Jon Oyanagi led ice-breaker activity.

Statewide Trails Workgroup Recap, Discussion & Approval

(Les Ollila, Statewide Trails Workgroup)

- **The purpose:** create and decide where a border-to-border recreational trail would go in Minnesota. The path of the trail should include the State's natural resources, historic, cultural and scenic attributes.
 - Goal: connect and work together with other existing statewide trail projects, agencies, and communities.
 - Proposed plan: State Trail that goes east to west and north to south, intersecting in the Twin Cities area.

- **Update and Progress:** The workgroup created a draft of the proposed trail. This new draft includes a summary of the project, and a new simplified map of the potential trail corridor. The map shows that 50% of the trail is already completed in sections with existing trails of partner agencies. With so much of it already completed, the group is hoping that this will generate momentum to complete the project. The group wants to emphasize the narrative of the three Minnesota biomes, connecting communities, and history of the land. They are hoping that these characteristics will generate public excitement for the trail.
- **Feedback and Recommendations from PTLAC members:**
 - Workgroup should consolidate before they bring this idea to other agencies. And when we do bring it to others, a project champion should represent and take ownership of the plans.
 - PTLAC members expressed support for the simplified map.
 - Marketing for this plan should better represent what the group wants the public to get from this trail.
 - Land acknowledgments were also suggested to be placed along the trail.
 - Market this idea by including the right images to express the multiple biomes, sites and towns, and how the trail is multi-use, for any season and welcomes diverse users.
 - Share draft on DNR & partner websites for easy access to everyone

----- **Committee approves State Wide Trail concept plan**

Coordinate with Partners Pillar 2022 Priorities and Member Feedback

(Lars Erdahl)

- **Background on *Coordinate with Partners* Pillar**
 - Work seamlessly with different agencies, creating a shared outcomes report to show progress in the 25-year plan
- **Shared outcomes report**
 - Report target date of completion is January 2023
 - Qualitative and quantitative data should be included in the report.
 - Suggested to also include how tax money is used and spent, to show what is being covered and what still needs funding
 - Thoughts/messages that are important for Minnesotans to know that impacts us and our natural resources that should be considered.
- **Partner with Legacy Funds: Arts and Culture Projects**
 - Collaboration is beginning with preliminary discussions, art could serve to make parks more welcoming and bring in new and more diverse visitation.
- **Minnesota Great Outdoors Website: updates**
 - Compile data, how are people using it and who is going on it.

- **Feedback from PTLAC members:**
 - Need to show how the projects have meaning to the public – share stories of impacts on people's lives
 - In future meetings discussions on the focus and priorities for future. We will gather input and perspectives from the whole PTLAC, but could perhaps focus on some priorities with smaller groups.
 - It will be important for future voters to be informed of the benefits of Legacy Parks and Trails investments.

Lunchtime Virtual Tour - Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park

Sandy, the director in Washington County Parks and Rec and Emmet Mullin narrate a video of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park in Washington County that they shared with the committee.

- The park completed two Legacy fund projects, constructing a new main building and entrance. Totaling 1 million dollars each.
- The new building has gathering spaces with an indoor fire and a meeting room that can be rented out. Big windows bring in natural light, And there are also an office space for staff and indoor bathrooms available for the public
- The other Legacy funded project was constructing a more visible and accessible roundabout in front of the entrance, and redoing the road within the park leading to the new building.
- The park has various trails for winter and summer activities for hiking, skiing, and biking. The new building can be used as a warming house in the cold months. Cottage Grove Regional Park also received some small grants to provide free fishing poles and rental Nordic track skis.
- In the future they plan to focus on the upper landing of the park for a planned 'destination' playground, picnic area, and install lights along the ski trails.

Climate Summit - Impressions from COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland

(Cathy Jordan)

- PTLAC member Cathy Jordan shares her experience attending COP26. Roughly 34,000-40,000 people attended. About 4,000 of them were negotiators, the rest were observers.
- **Goal of Conference:**
 - Step up mitigation efforts
 - Strengthen adaptation and resilience
 - Mobilize USD 100 billion in climate finance
 - Enhance international collaboration
- **Some positive outcomes that came from this conference:**

- We're now a path of 3 degrees C warming, not 5
- 130 countries vowed to halt deforestation by 2030
- 105 countries pledged to reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030
- US/China promise to work together
- Increasing, doubling, financial help to developing countries
- Pact names fossil fuels as the culprit for the "first time", begin to phase down unabated coal
- Indigenous interests mentioned in the Pact, Article 6
- **Challenges highlighted by the Conference**
 - Injustices persist in the world, Countries that haven't been contributing significantly to climate change are suffering the most from its negative effects
 - The conference was also expensive and had to be fully vaccinated, which excluded some from attending
 - 6% of the world is indigenous, and they are protecting 80% of the world's biodiversity
 - Loss of environmental stewardship, we are losing our human-nature connection
- **Future:** COP27 will take place in Egypt. It will have a focus on more ambitious pledges, operationalizing to cut emissions by 2030, and finance.
- Cathy reflect that take-aways for Parks and Trails include building that Human-Nature connection, educating that creates environmental systems thinking, making our sites more green, and use our sites to educate on the effects of climate change

PTLAC 2022 Work Plan and Meeting Plan Development

(Lars Erdahl)

Agency updates at meetings with feedback opportunities:

- Draft meeting schedule for the year is presented, the committee plans to meet six times. Schedule assumes the meetings are virtual, but that could change as the situation allows
- February meeting will focus on how the legacy funds are being used in specific agencies.
- Coordinate with partner's projects, i.e. MN Great Outdoors and putting together data from that website.

Perspectives, learning and advice as a foundation to all of our work:

- Efforts should be science-based instead of political
- Keep an eye on outdoor trends and how they influence our projects

Targeted advice and perspectives from PTLAC to agencies:

- Last year the PTLAC provided a letter to recommend keeping the 40-40-20 split of the DNR Parks and trails, Met Council and GMRPTC regional parks, for legacy funding
- Invite people from across the pillars to present informational presentations to the committee to get a better idea of where we're focusing our energy.

Updates

- Les Ollila, Randy Sorensen, May Yang, Andrea Christoffer transition out of their PTLAC member roles – we are grateful for their leadership, valued perspectives and service.
- We hope new appointees will be able to attend the next meeting
- Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 24, 2022, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Meeting adjourned