

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting April 28, 2022

MINUTES PROVIDE A RECORD OF MINNESOTA'S PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS. THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED AND WILL BE REVIEWED ON JUNE 23, 2022.



DRAFT 04/28/2022

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2022

9:30 AM-2:30 PM

In person Meeting at Law Enforcement Center, 911 11th Street North, Moorhead, MN
and virtual via WebEx

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2022

Meeting Host: Metropolitan Council

Meeting Location: Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, and via WebEx

Action Items:

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

Meeting Minutes:

Members: Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Alysa Delgado Misfeldt (absent), Steve Dubbs, Janice Erickson (absent), Cecily Harris (absent), Alexandera Houchin (absent), Gina Hugo, Cathy Jordan, Matthew Lindaman, Sumbal Mahmud, Allison Mark, Dolf Moon, Jon Oyanagi, Jim Shoberg, Heather Stirratt, Dan Trudeau (absent), Tom Watson (absent)

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

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

Jon Oyanagi opened the meeting and led introductions. Kristie Leshovsky introduced herself and described features of surrounding regional parks and trails. Thank you to the staff at Moorhead Law Enforcement Center for hosting today's meeting.

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

The February 24th PTLAC Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved.

GMRPTC Legacy Accomplishments and Future Priorities

(Renee Mattson)

Agency Update

Renee begins by explaining who GMRPTC is and what they do.

- Thirteen members, 2 representing each district and 1 at large.
- Engages with regional and local groups, non-profits and non-governmental organizations. Commission conducts annual workshops, and participate in state-wide meetings, subgroups, and other formal organizations.

A park or trail is designated as regionally significant using the Strategic Plan

1. Designation Application: Determines Eligibility
 2. Master Plan: Complete Evaluation
 3. Funding Application: Facilities apply for annual Legacy Funding
- Parks: create high quality outdoor recreational opportunities in natural and scenic settings.
 - Trails: provide quality trail experiences that are accessible from already populated or growing regional destination.
 - Special Features: new, unique, or innovative outdoor rec facilities of regional significance
 - Supportive partnership: this is new, Regional and county facilities that are owned or controlled by federal, state, or non-profit organizations.

To receive Legacy funding, applicants must go through the Recommendation Selection Process:

1. Eligibility Determined: review application, on-site review, update info if needed
2. Scoring Conducted: Evaluation Team review and five feedback, Consultants complete scoring of applications
3. Commission Review and Discussion: Commission review application and evaluation, determines final funding priority list, and recommendation to the Legislature

PTLAC feedback and advice

- To avoid bias, visit parks and get to know the demographics of the state.
- Communicate with partnering agencies when making shifts, to prevent differences in policies.
- Be overt when speaking about Connecting People to the Outdoors pillar, this will create more environmental stewards.
- Many groups lack the knowledge to parks and trails rules and processes. Outreach can make the outdoors more accessible to these communities.

- Black and indigenous peoples are affected the most when it comes to climate change and poor environment conditions. BIPOC and indigenous communities have knowledge and practices in natural resources. These issues of climate change and social justice are interdisciplinary and cannot be separated from the topics of our normal business.

Coordinate with Partners project review/advice: Collaboration, Arts and Culture Legacy

(Lars Erdahl)

Lars explains the goals for the Arts and Culture collaboration

- Looking for gaps or art 'deserts' in parks and trails
- Any parks that need an increase in art
- Goal is to attract a variety of audiences to facilities
- Wants this project to not be a burden to park staff and agencies
- Complete a map where art can be found in parks and trails
- **PTLAC feedback and advice** Seek out BIPOC artists to create signage designs, art pieces, planning, etc. for parks
- Think about the intersectionality, for example use art and gardening as a way of educating
- Legacy funds have helped complete many public art projects
- Renting pieces as temporary exhibits to place in parks and trails
- Art form of music and theater in parks gets positive feedback from the public
- Possibility of including performance art and cultural heritage in park art assessment
- Is this map including art pieces that are only in our park system?
 - This might leave out important places like the Walker sculpture garden, Franconia, etc. A map will be useful to discover patterns that we may want to think about filling or adding art to
- Where does education fall into with art and climate resiliency?
 - This project could be used as an educating tool, have art that expresses the climate crisis and resiliency
- How is this project defining art?
 - Places that produce sound like a waterfall or instruments placed along a trail, are these considered art?
- Painted stones, and other random art pieces that people leave behind in parks receive positive feedback from visitors at no extra work from park staff
- Possibility of coinciding PTLAC meetings with local cultural festivals. Members will have an opportunity to interact with local communities. This would give members an opportunity to see results of Legacy funds. Members should be conscious that they might be making

decisions for people that don't know how the system works, like new immigrants who are learning the systems and what's available to them with in parks.

Break For Lunch

Site Tour

Moorhead River Corridor and M.B. Johnson park

Tour the Moorhead River Corridor and the MJ Johnson Park with Kristie Leshovsky, Community Development Director. The Moorhead River Corridor was designated in 2017 and has had Legacy funding in the amount of \$1,321,525 in two grants and MB Johnson has had one Legacy grant for \$1,299,100. Both grants created community connections and better access for citizens and visitors to Moorhead.

Member and Agency Updates

Met Council:

- Transitioning back to office using a hybrid arrangement; certain days are worked in office, rest are worked from home.
- Working on Metropolitan Development Guide
 - Includes Regional Parks Policy
 - Funds Equity Bonds, these bonds are going to be delayed by one year
- Hosts next PTLAC meeting, location at **Cottage Grove Ravine**

DNR:

- Transitioning back to office also using a hybrid arrangement.
- New Director of PAT, Ann Pierce, is working hard connecting with many people and groups, and getting involved in a variety of projects
- Having conversations and developing partnerships on topics of sustainability and fundamental conservation.
- Holding serious conversations, and growing a task force, to put together some recommendations on the importance of diversity
- End of Bonding Year approaching

Gina shared her experience and lessons learned on handling sacred sites at Big Elk Lake Park

- Conserving artifacts conflicts with cultural practices
- As a county, trying to approach this sacred site with the utmost respect, she described the mistakes that she made and how she learned from them.
- After talking and listening to indigenous people of that area, Gina transferred the excavated artifacts back to the sacred site.

Action Items:

- Correct spelling error on previous minutes

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT