

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting June 23, 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 AUGUST 25, 2022.*



Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2022

10:30 AM-2:30 PM

In-person at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Ravine Landing Visitor Center

And virtual via WebEx

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2022

Meeting Host: Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails

Meeting Location: Sherburne History Center, Becker MN

Action Items:

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

Meeting Minutes:

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

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

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

Jon Oyanagi opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests, and led the ice breaker.

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

Approved April 2022 PTLAC meeting minutes.

Site Tour: Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Ravine Landing Visitor Center

Eden Rogers of Washington County Parks, project manager of Visitor Center, led the tour, giving information and details about the Ravine Landing Visitor Center. She took the group around the building explaining the process of the project and how it was made. This building, and the new entrance road would not have been completed without the investment of Legacy funds.

Metropolitan Regional Parks System Overview with Legacy Projects Highlights

(Emmett Mullin)

Metropolitan regional parks system includes:

- 44 parks
- 12 Park Reserves
- 8 Special Recreation Features
- 55 Regional Trails, over 415 miles
- Amount of trails they have is increasing, most growth in that area
- Met Council supports and upholds the values of the 10 agencies, (counties and park systems with the metro), Met Council also helps plan and provide funding for the regional parks system
- The Commission includes 8 members and 2 chairs

Agency Legacy Highlights:

Saint Paul – Andy Rodriguez (Director, St. Paul Parks & Recreation) and Alice Messer (St. Paul Parks & Recreation)

- Committing to equity, engaging with communities and finding out that many feel unsafe and disconnected from the greenspaces
- Developing the Lower Landing
- When creating a plan, the residents of the area have to be considered, their culture and community needs
- Have to be flexible and listen to create a useable space

Three Rivers Park District – Boe Carlson (Director, Three Rivers Park District)

- Mississippi Gateway Park, right next to Coon Rapids Dam, Brooklyn Park and Three Rivers partnered to create a new master plan
- Public engagement process included over 1,200 people, purposely targeted groups that have historically been underrepresented
- New trails, main parking lot and roads have already been built
- Close to having the funds to build a new Mississippi Gateway Center, Treetop Trail, and South Pond Learning Lab
- This redevelopment project will allow more people to explore the Mississippi and surrounding natural areas

Dakota County – Nikki Geisler (Dakota County Parks)

- Have been able to hire Full-Time Outreach Coordinator, and Indigenous Liaison
- Focusing on giving communities a voice and a sense of belonging
- Been able to develop and implement marketing awareness and promotions plan, emphasizing underrepresented communities.
- Formed partnerships and offering classes to provide a range of accessible activities

Questions, Feedback and Advice

- What's the effectiveness of the Outreach being done?

- They have a lot of surveys to gage the effectiveness, as well as park user counts.
- What are we thinking for the future of Legacy?
- How will you change the term 'Master Plan', since it has roots in slavery?
 - Possibly to a term that's more active, looking for suggestions.
- Are you going to take out some dams along the river?
 - If they do, it won't be for a long time. The river would be smaller which would affect the parks located along it.
- How are formal evaluations completed?
 - Legacy Committee reports on their activity every year.
- How do we advance the knowledge of the Legacy Funds? Once 25 years is up, what will happen?
- We could focus on marketing and outreach to High school kids, since they will be voting in the future when Legacy is over.
- When creating plans and outreach, we can't assume that everyone has a positive relationship with the outdoors.
- Public is interested in stories. Increase public awareness with videos, photo displays etc., telling these stories.
- We could assign park managers to provide a story on how the Legacy funds have affected their park, and use it in the Shared Outcomes Report.
- For the future we need to focus our meetings and attention on climate adaption.
- A couple of things that deter people from going to our parks are entrance fees, transportation, and welcoming atmosphere.

Break for Lunch

Coordinate with Partners

(Lars Erdahl)

Art in Parks and Trails

Next steps:

- Complete assessment of art in parks and trails
- Meet with Arts & Cultural Heritage, and Arts Council to explore options, will do this in July
- Manage current art and encourage/support additional art

Feedback:

- ArtReach St. Croix, Springboard for the Arts could be potential organizations to partner with in the future.
- Consider how public art can be included in redevelopment and master plans.

Shared Outcomes Report

Needs to be completed this year.

- Include infographics, and stories.
 - Need to gather stories of the how Legacy has affected our parks

- Use similar style/template as the other agencies, for consistency

Streetlight

- In the middle of this two year project
- Some challenges include how to collect data from trails
- There is an ongoing effort to validate data

Member and Agency Updates

(Liaisons)

GMRPTC

- Agency has grown, now has 73 designations
 - Recently designated two more facilities

Met Council

- No bonding bill from the legislature, even though it was a bonding year
- No equity grant program, delay implementation by one year to increase interest earnings, will have \$1 – \$1.5 million
- Tom Watson has resigned from his position with the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
- Scott County is hiring a Parks Planner, posted through Three Rivers Parks District
- Suggested that committee members become more active in agency activities
 - Possibility of an Arts in Parks task force in the next phase
- Dan sponsored fishing event at Hmong day Festival, including the outdoors in cultural events
- Indigenous burning is now allowed on Minnesota Point, Duluth.

Action Items:

- Liaisons report on the end of Art in Parks phase 1, and potential next phase
- **Next meeting:** Hosted by GMRPTC on August 25, 2022 at the Sherburne History Center in Becker, MN

Meeting is adjourned