

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting October 21, 2021

*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 DECEMBER 2, 2021.*



Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2021

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Webex

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: December 2, 2021

Meeting Host: Metropolitan Council Regional Parks

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting via Webex

Action Items:

- DNR Staff will share minutes for both the July 22, 2021 and October 21, 2021 prior to the December 2, 2021 PTLAC meeting for review and approval at the next meeting. Following approval, meeting minutes will be posted on the LCC Website.
- DNR Staff will coordinate with the Statewide Trails workgroup to develop the summary document for approval and advancing to the partner agencies.
- Liaisons and staff will review PTLAC membership applications and follow the process within their respective agencies to advance recommendations for appointment

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

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

Staff: Lars Erdahl (DNR), Emma Squires-Sperling (DNR), Joel Huting (Met Council), Raven McKnight (Met Council)

Jon Oyanagi opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

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

Approval of July 2021 PTLAC meeting was tabled until the next PTLAC meeting.

Jon Oyanagi led ice-breaker activity.

Sharing Legacy Investments in the *Coordinate with Partners* Pillar

- **Coordinate with Partners Introduction & Background** (Laura Preus)
 - Develop joint research efforts based on new cost-effective technology
 - Provide guidance on Parks and Trails Legacy 25 year plan
 - Guide collaborative efforts toward joint outcomes

- Connect people to a seamless system such as MN Great Outdoors Website and connected trails efforts
- Shared outreach such as 10-year celebration of Legacy Amendment, MN state fair, etc.
- Have worked with U of MN on several research and assessment projects over the years
- **Streetlight Collaborative Research Project** – a joint research project of the Metropolitan Council, DNR and GMRPTC (Joel Huting and Raven McKnight)
 - Project Purpose
 - Collect and analyze location-based services data for visitation to state and regional parks
 - Project Timeline
 - June 2021- June 2023
 - Key deliverables:
 - Development of dataset of visitation data for parks and trails
 - Interactive mapping and data visualization app
 - Comparison of findings to available intercept-based surveys
 - Goal is to start with analysis of parks first, then trails second
 - Deliverables released throughout project timeline
 - Overview:
 - Aggregated and **anonymized** location-based services data from cell phones
 - **Can't** identify individuals, can look at patterns of travel
 - 60 billion location records per month
 - Travel mode, visitor home/work location (census block groups), inferred demographics, etc.
 - Multiple levels of anonymization: data is anonymized prior to being sent to streetlight and then another level of anonymization is made once sent to streetlight
 - Challenges
 - Defining visitation -- visits in the metro may not be totally comparable to a visit in a state or greater MN regional park
 - Metro system has lots of visits, but visits may be shorter
 - According to Streetlight, poor cell phone reception within some MN parks should not affect measuring capabilities, but this is being assessed with comparison to other data.

Statewide Trails Workgroup Update and Discussion

- PTLAC Statewide Trail Workgroup Mission Statement: The Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee proposes to create a border-to-border-recreational trail connecting the State's natural resources, historic, cultural and scenic attributes. We wish to establish a trail that connects north to south and east to west across the state of Minnesota, utilizing existing trails and corridors and connecting communities.
- Workgroup has defined mission, discussed corridor and members with GIS skills have even generated maps, but the workgroup has taken this about as far as it can and would like to summarize to make a recommendation to the agency to further advance.

- Communication committee could assist throughout the coordinating among partners funds, if necessary
- Next step is to fine tune a marketing statement and develop a one-page summary document with updated map and narrative as a final deliverable for consideration at December 2, 2021 PTLAC meeting.

Lunchtime Virtual Guided Tour - *Shipwreck Creek Campground*

Emma Squires-Sperling shared video of her visit to the Shipwreck Creek Campground facility:

- Across the road from Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, construction began November 2019 and will continue into summer 2021, with a grand opening anticipated in late summer or fall 2021.
- The campground will have three loops with 46 campsites, nestled into the hillside above Lake Superior; electrical hook-up will be available at each campsite and there will be a modern shower and bathroom building for campers.
- The new campground will feature a paved trail connection to the Gitchi Gami State Trail, a parking area, and connections to Lake County's Split Rock Wilds mountain biking trails, which are also under construction.
- This campground project, a cooperative effort between Lake County and Minnesota State Parks and Trails, has been under consideration for many years and was a part of the 1980 Park Management Plan.
- Project design, permitting, and construction of the campground and associated facilities are funded by the Parks and Trails Legacy fund, totaling \$7.5 million. Lake County funded the \$1.6 million roadway through a grant from the State Park Road Account.

PTLAC Path Forward — Priorities & Focus for 2022

Guiding Questions...

- What are the top three challenges for parks and trails?
- What are the top three opportunities for parks and trails?
- What is the most important priority expressed in the 25-year plan?
- Considering all of the current direct and indirect impacts on parks and trails in Minnesota, what are the top priorities for the PTLAC to focus on in 2022?

PTLAC Member Perspectives...

- More difficult to engage committee with virtual meetings – perhaps agencies could present ideas to get advisory committee feedback... dedicate more meeting time specifically for feedback to fulfill advisory role.
- There is Zoom meeting fatigue – much harder to engage and develop connections with fellow members. Virtual tours are great alternative to provide those site visits and place of experiential learning, but there is a longing for in person activities/meetings
- Hard to navigate, especially for new advisory committee members, where to jump in and take on tasks that are still needing to be completed
- Need to work with three agencies and sub-agencies and better establish what their advisory needs and concerns are, what feedback or advice would they like back from this committee?

- What is legacy worthy? Committee work might benefit from broader consideration of full advisory committee.
- Clearly identify what has been accomplished and what needs to be done in the future/next steps
- Explore other virtual options for communication other than Zoom/WebEx/Teams that may not have as many technical difficulties; e.g. calls, emails, etc.
- Perhaps increase connection with local and federal government agencies and look for ways to better advise GMRPTC.
- Reconsider how subcommittees are structured and function. Is work appropriate for committees or full advisory committee?
- Balance of pillar projects/strategic focus (Connect People and the Outdoors, Acquire Land and Create Opportunities, Take Care of What we Have, coordinate Among Partners)
- Accessibility involvement/coordination of state, local and federal agencies to seek representation and connection. Focus on accessibility for disabilities and also barriers for cultural and ethnic groups.
- Direct what, how and why statements with a communications structure that cuts across all four pillars.
- Systems approach that focuses on all things we work on, why it matters and why the public should care.
- Communications strategy could benefit from a reset among whole group.

Updates

- Erika Rivers will be transitioning out of her role as a Legacy Liaison and her tenure at the DNR. She's been an effective advocate and champion of the PTLAC and the Legacy program in her leadership role with DNR Parks and Trails and will be missed. She plans to continue her to advance her passion for accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation and natural in her new nonprofit leadership role.
- Applications have been coming in for appointment to the PTLAC, with the application period closing October 25.
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The meeting was adjourned.