

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting December 5th, 2019

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 FEB. 27th, 2020.



Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

December 5th, 2019

Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor's Center
860 Cliff Rd, Eagan, MN 55123

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: February 27th, 2020 9:30 AM-2:30 PM

Meeting Host: DNR

Meeting Location: TBD

Action Items:

- DNR staff will post the approved meeting minutes on the PTLAC Website.
- DNR staff will share with the PTLAC Members the Funding Workgroup meeting schedule, once a meeting schedule has been finalized.
- Emmett Mullin will arrange a presentation on the Metropolitan Council's Youth and Parks research results at the February 27th, 2020 PTLAC Meeting.

Minutes

Members: Bob Bierscheid, Cecily Harris, Les Ollila, Louise Segreto, Matthew Lindaman, May Yang, Nancy Hanson, Pete Royer, Pat Stieg, Margot Imdieke-Cross, Tim Mitchell, Kathy Bergen, Randy Sorensen (absent), Chris Crutchfield (absent), Poppy Potter (absent), Wayne Sames.

Liaisons: Emmett Mullin, Renee Mattson, Tom Ryan (absent), Erika Rivers, Laura Preus

Guests: Marty Walsh, Carver County; Pamela Gokemeijer, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board; Steve Sullivan, Dakota County

Staff: Gratia Joice & Margaret Krueger

Welcome and Introduction:

- Bob Bierscheid welcomed everyone, and led the introductions.
- The October 24th Meeting Minutes were approved.

Funding Workgroup Updates:

- The first meeting has been scheduled for January 10th, 2020.
- DNR's members are: Shannon Lotthammer, Phil Leversedge, Scott Kelling, and Melody Webb (alternate)
- GMRPTC members are: Tim Engrav, Rick Anderson, Marcia Larson, Mike Nigbur (alternate).
- Met Council members are: Met council: John Gunyou, Mary Merrill, Mary Jo McGuire, and Boe Carlson (alternate)
- PTLAC members discussed ways in which the Funding Workgroup can consult with the PTLAC. and information/ideas the PTLAC wants the workgroup to know and consider in their discussions. For the specifics of this discussion, please see the attached document titled "Synthesized PLTAC Funding Work Group Discussion Recap_12052019."

Agency Updates

DNR (Erika Rivers)

- The November forecast for the 2022/2023 biennium has a very positive outlook in terms of revenue generation
- The State Fair Legacy Exhibit has not yet been confirmed, but the issue has been raised to the DNR's office of communications and outreach. Regardless of whether the DNR theater space is available, there will be a Legacy Outreach effort on behalf of the Parks and Trails Division in 2020 at the MN State Fair.
- DNR and Explore Minnesota are launching a 20 person Outdoor Recreation Task Force to consider how to bring measured growth, increased and equitable access and a higher quality of outdoor recreation opportunities to Minnesotans. The application period goes until January 10th. The task force will meet over a 10 month period to create a set of recommendations for the DNR and Explore Minnesota.
- The Legacy Program Consultant position has been posted and will be filled in the coming months.

Metropolitan Council (Emmett Mullin)

- The Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program Pilot recommendations are being submitted to the Metropolitan Council for their review and approval. Three projects have been recommended for funding, and these will be presented to the full Council for approval on December 11th.
- The Metropolitan Council has completed a qualitative study called "Youth and Parks" with various regional park implementing agencies. Emmett and lead researcher Darcie Vandergrift will be presenting on these findings at the February 27th PTLAC meeting.
- The Metropolitan Council is coming forward with a \$15 million request for the upcoming Bonding session. The Metropolitan Council will match this funding up to \$10 Million, with a total of \$25 million for the 2020 legislative session.
- Currently there are two openings for the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission positions in Districts C and D. Interviews will begin sometime in February. Any Committee Members interested in applying should reach out directly to Emmett.

GMRPTC (Renee Mattson)

- The GMRPTC received 22 applications for FY21 totaling about \$28 million. Nine projects were funded for just short of \$10 million. The grants represent a variety of projects throughout the districts.
- In the coming years, there will be some new parks and trails facilities for visitors to enjoy.
- Currently there are 62 regionally designated Parks and Trails facilities in Greater Minnesota.
- Last winter, the GMRPTC hired a consultant to complete an inventory of the Mountain Bike Trail Systems in Districts 1 & 2. This inventory mapping project was approved at yesterday's meeting, and the process will yield highly valuable data for GMRPTC systems. The report is available on the [GMRPTC website](#).

Legacy Outreach Updates: Margaret Krueger

- The design contract for the Legacy Funded Pop-up kits has been finalized, and the contract will be initiated in the coming weeks. There will be two main review sessions, during which time the DNR staff, Legacy Liaisons and PTLAC members will provide feedback on the development process. The first review deadline will be one month after the contract is initiated.
- PTLAC members discussed methods for using the pop-up kits; one idea was to share the kits geographically to increase efficiencies in transporting the kits. Another idea is to use visitor surveys to gauge the effectiveness and impact of the pop-up kits to know how to best use them in the future.

Lebanon Hills Regional Park Presentation: Steve Sullivan

- Steve Sullivan gave a brief presentation describing how Legacy Funding has benefited Dakota County's Parks and Trails Systems, specifically Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The 25-year Legacy Plan continues to provide guidance regarding how to develop state and regionally significant parks systems.

Open Discussion: Applying the 25 Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan to PTLAC Initiatives

- Connecting People to the Outdoors: Louise Segreto suggested re-framing this to not connecting *people* to the outdoors, but rather connecting the *outdoors* to people. She expressed concern over the environmental and ecological impact of Legacy projects and wants these impacts to be considered in future Legacy funded projects.
- There is a desire to figure out if and how PTLAC will move forward with the statewide trails project. PTLAC members and Liaisons need to arrive at a concrete resolution in 2020.
- Focusing on equity, diversity, and inclusion in 2020 is also a major work plan priority for committee members and liaisons. This includes outreach efforts and facilitating feedback from members of the public.

Legacy Advisory Committee Transition Updates

- Announcement for new PTLAC Member positions went out on November 12, and applications are open through Friday, December 13th. Past committee make-up has had good gender balance and representation among various sectors/professions. The committee tends to be underrepresented in age, people of color and geographical representation (no committee representation from SW region of state); actions have been taken to reach out to these communities to encourage them to apply.
- May Yang expressed interest in stepping forward as PTLAC Chair. The committee unanimously approved May Yang as the next chair.

Final Remarks from Departing PTLAC Original Cohort

- Bob Bierscheid, Nancy Hanson, Kathy Bergen, and Wayne Sames shared their final remarks for the rest of the PTLAC participants, as this will be the final meeting for these members. This cohort of members represents the original founding members of the PTLAC, which was established to guide the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund's implementation between the three agencies: MN DNR, GMRPTC, and the Metropolitan Council.

Final Updates

Next Meeting Details:

- **Next Meeting:** Thursday February 27th (DNR Host)
- **Location:** Metropolitan Region (specific location TBD)

PTLAC Reimbursements:

- Please send committee member reimbursements to Gratia Joice during the December-January months (contact information will be posted in a separate email)

The meeting was adjourned.