

Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting July 25th, 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 OCT. 24th, 2019



Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Meeting

July 25th, 2019

Northland Regional Sports Park
8257 MN-89
Bemidji, MN 56601

Updates and Announcements:

Next Meeting: October 24th, 2019

Meeting Host: DNR

Meeting Location: TBD

Committee Actions Required:

- DNR Staff will post the approved June 27th Meeting minutes on the PTLAC Website
- Stefanie Stearns will send detailed instructions for signing up for shifts to the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Members and Liaisons
- The Legacy Liaisons will include Bob Bierscheid on the October Liaison's Monthly meeting to discuss the goals of the Legacy pop-up kits.
- Legacy Liaisons will review and discuss the written Social Media Policy at the next Legacy Liaison's Monthly Meeting
- A meeting to further discuss the goals of reviewing and assessing the accessibility of Legacy funded projects will be scheduled before the October 24th PTLAC meeting
- Pete Royer will develop a visionary statement for the Minnesota Statewide Trail Project, which will be submitted to the Legacy Liaisons before the October 24th meeting
- Legacy Liaisons must submit any updates that need to be made to the MN Great Outdoors data editor before the MN State Fair

Minutes

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

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

Guests: Shannon Lothammer, Assistant DNR Commissioner; Mike Hulett, former GMRPTC Commissioner; Joe Czapiewski GMRPTC System Plan Coordinator; Tom Stoa, District 6 Commissioner and former PTLAC member; Mark Farabee, Northland Regional Sports Center; Hansi Johnson, Youth Outdoors Duluth

Staff: Stefanie Stearns, Margaret Krueger

Welcome and Introduction:

Bob Bierscheid opened the meeting and led the introductions. A special thanks to the Northland Regional Sports Park for hosting today's meeting. Mark Farabee, staff member at the Northland Regional Sports Park, continued the introductions by describing the park's background. The planning for the park began in 2007, until it was funded by the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. The park is about 360

acres. The park was completed about 1 year ago, and now includes a trailhead, trap and skeet ranges, and multiple shooting ranges. The vision for the park's trailhead is designed for non-local residents. The park will continue to see more improvements over the upcoming years.

The June 27th Meeting Minutes have been approved.

[Bemidji Area Legacy Projects: Renee Mattson & Erika Rivers](#)

The Northland Regional Sports Park:

- This park is the only Legacy-funded park in the region
- The Minnesota State High School League hosts a high school shooting program for youth
- The public's support for the park has continued to gain momentum
- The park has proven to be a great way to connect people to the outdoors

LaSalle Lake:

- Land near Lake Bemidji State Park was recently acquired for group campsites
- Designed for inter-generational use
- Parks and Trails Legacy Funds were used for the land acquisition project
- Includes a nature play area
- LaSalle Lake is the deepest inland lake in Minnesota
- Natural resource management is a major priority for the land

[MN State Fair Legacy Exhibit: Brook Maier](#)

Brook Maier serves as the Project Manager for the Legacy Exhibit at the MN State Fair. Brook led a short presentation on the 2019 State Fair Exhibit

Exhibit Layout:

- The layout will include more foot paths across the "river" in the exhibit to increase the efficiency of foot traffic
- A 17-foot waterfall graphic will be included near the river graphic
- A map will be in the front of the entrance, which highlights a selected number of statewide Legacy-funded projects
- An interactive "pom-pom" game will still be included to facilitate public feedback
 - "What connects you to the outdoors?"
 - Vote on the most important: Traditional Media Promotion, Social Media Promotion, Skill Building Programs, Naturalist/Interpretive Programs, Welcoming Environment/Signage, Building Partnerships
 - This area will include the previous year's results from the surveying in 2018
- Two computers displaying the MN Great Outdoors Website will be included
- A section that showcases all four Legacy Funds will be included
- The "kids' corner" will include an interactive sailboat
- Finally, there will be a canoe-themed photo opportunity in the far corner

Graphics:

- Welcome/Intro sign

- Legacy “Podium” signs
- Four Funds Graphic
- Kids’ Zone Sailboat/Coloring Station: “Can you draw your dream park?”
- Blackboard: “What is your favorite thing to do outside?”
- Photo Opportunity Area
- 17ft Waterfall
- River Graphic
- Camping Background Graphic
- Hanging Pillar Banners
- In Development:
 - Minnesota Map
 - Hanging Elements
 - Interactive Game
 - Great Outdoors Website

Giveaways:

- Postcards
- Legacy Pins
- Red Backpacks
- Cooling Scarves

Volunteer/Staff Sign-up:

- **Deadline August 9th**
- New site has been developed for signing up
- Those signing up must approve a submission for a background check
- Must register through the DNR’s system as a DNR volunteer
- 96 total shifts must be filled
- Shift Roles:
 - Floor Manager
 - Greeter
 - Staff Member
- Stefanie Stearns will send detailed instructions for signing up for shifts to the Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Members and Liaisons
- Committee Members will be reimbursed for their expenses incurred
 - Parking will be reimbursed for Committee Members
 - Committee Members are required to attend two shifts if they wish to be reimbursed

FY 2020-2021 Legacy Projects Overview

The three cooperating agencies briefly shared their goals and highlights for the upcoming fiscal years: 2020-2021. This is in direct relation to the 40-40-20 funding agreement between the three agencies.

MN DNR: Erika Rivers

Erika discussed how the DNR's plans for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 relate directly to the Legacy Pillars.

Connecting People to the Outdoors:

- Legacy percentage increased to 17% (from 15% compared to past years)
- Increased funding for naturalist and interpretive programs on a statewide level
- Increased outreach efforts toward diverse communities, including Latinx communities in southern Minnesota
- Increased investment for I Can! Programs to reach diverse communities
- Increased funding for wayfinding projects/signage to eliminate confusion for park users
- Investment in the DNR loyalty programs to encourage people to keep visiting state parks in MN
 - State Park Passport and Hiking Club Programs allow members of the public to receive discounted camping services
 - Investment in "Forest Finder" system in relation to the Park Finder system on the MN DNR's Website
- Increasing investment for accessible and inclusive video formats
- Continuation and future development of the Urban Outreach Program

Taking Care of What We Have

- Overall investment has increased to 19%
- Requests for bonding continue to be a major challenge for the DNR Agency
- Legacy Funding cannot substitute the bonding needs of the DNR
- New projects across the state are being implemented and include:
 - State Forest Campgrounds in Beltrami County
 - Increasing trail development
 - Improving facility development
 - Shower facilities, bathroom facilities
 - Developing/improving campground infrastructure
 - Investing in interpretive/visitors' centers

Metropolitan Council: Emmett Mullin

Emmett Mullin shared how the 10 Regional Park Implementing Agencies of Met Council will receive funding for the upcoming fiscal years.

Legacy Fund Distribution in the Metropolitan Area:

- State statute splits funding for Met Council regional parks:
 - 90% distributed non-competitively to the 10 implementing agencies
 - 10% distributed on a first-come, first-served basis for land acquisition
 - Met Council matches acquisition funds on a three- to- two basis

Parks and Trails Legacy Plan Guiding Legacy Investment:

- All Metropolitan Regional Parks Legacy Projects help MN address these Legacy pillars:
 - Connecting People to the Outdoors

- Taking Care of What We Have
- Acquiring Land
- Total of 53 projects by each funding pillar
- The FY 2020-2021 Funding Allocations have been established for all 10 Implementing Agencies, and are based on population distribution

Project Highlights:

- Investments in Outreach Staff: Bloomington, Dakota, and Ramsey Counties
- Indian Mounds Regional Park: cultural and resources interpretive planning
- Ramsey County’s implementation of off-leash dog park investments
- Conservation Corps partnership across 10 Implementing Agencies

[GMRPTC: Renee Mattson](#)

Renee discussed the goals for grant applications for FY 2020-2021. The deadlines for these applications will close shortly. The applications in the system will be reviewed and approved in December, 2019. Currently 18 projects are being proposed within the GMRPTC systems. 10 of the proposed projects are trails projects, and 8 are related to park infrastructure. The applicants’ communities vary in population sizes, and serve a diverse range of neighborhoods across Greater Minnesota.

[Legacy Pop-ups Update: Bob Bierscheid](#)

Bob Bierscheid briefly discussed his goals with the Legacy pop-up kits. The goal is to develop a pop-up kit for all three implementing agencies on a statewide level. Further discussion with the Legacy Liaisons is needed. The Legacy Liaisons will include Bob on future Liaison’s Monthly meetings to discuss the goals of the Legacy pop-up kits.

[The Youth Outdoors Duluth Program: Hansi Johnson](#)

Wayne Sames introduced Hansi Johnson, the Youth Outdoors Duluth Program Coordinator. This program focuses on connecting young, diverse individuals to the outdoors in coordination with the Minnesota Land Trust.

Hansi began the presentation by describing his personal journey from Winona, MN to his current hometown. His inspiration for the current Youth Outdoors Duluth program came from the Winona Canoe program, which exposed him to a diverse range of outdoor recreation activities: mountain biking, canoeing, hiking, skiing, etc. From there, Hansi began an extensive career in advocacy for outdoor recreation and conservation. The St. Louis Corridor Initiative sought to connect the communities of Western Duluth to various outdoor recreation opportunities. This initiative helped to gain critical feedback from members of the public. However, this revealed a widening gap in people of color in outdoor recreation groups. This inspired Hansi to work with marginalized communities in the Duluth area to bridge the “adventure gap.”

Adventure Gap Convening:

- Varied Stakeholders
- Guided Discussion
- Priority list of to-dos

- Results
- Relationships built
- Children's Outdoor Charter
- Youth Outdoors Duluth Established

Youth Outdoors Duluth: A Community Collaborative

Mission: to ensure that all youth have access to a progression of nature-based experiences through community wide coordination of resources and expertise.

- Coordinating organization with various partners in the Duluth community
 - Minor fee for participating partners during public events
 - Requires partners to take diversity, equity and inclusion training
- Community Events: 743 participants climbed, skied, paddled and biked
- Gear and Curriculum Library: 418 participants
- Youth Advisory Council:
 - Role models trained: 115 individuals trained over 86.5 hours
 - Adventure series: 200 participants

Conclusion:

- Your personal journey sets the stage for real change
- Build relationships before you build projects
- Influence your own circle
- Listen to the kids

Subcommittee Reports

Communications

- Revised Social Media Policy continues to be a priority
- Legacy Liaisons will review and discuss the written Social Media Policy at the next Legacy Liaisons Monthly Meeting

Research

- The Liaisons recently met about utilizing location-based data services, and more updates will be included at the upcoming committee meetings

Inclusion

- The Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee needs to further discuss the goals and agendas for the Inclusion Subcommittee
- The Committee and Liaisons will develop a series of benchmark goals for assessing and reviewing the accessibility compliance of Legacy-funded projects/facilities
 - Reviewing building plans and assessing accessibility of Legacy-funded projects is needed
 - A meeting to further discuss the goals of reviewing and assessing the accessibility of Legacy-funded projects will be scheduled before the October 24th PTLAC meeting

Benchmarks

- The goals and metrics of the four Legacy pillars have been identified, but further discussion is needed at the October 24th Meeting

Minnesota Statewide Trail

- A visionary statement for the Minnesota Statewide Trail Project will be submitted to the Legacy Liaisons
- After a statement has been submitted, other goals can be identified: mapping, infrastructure improvements, securing funding etc.

Final Updates: Stefanie Stearns and May Yang

ParkRx America: Stefanie Stearns

- Health and nature has received a lot of press through MPR
- More local and regional park systems in ParkRx America website will be included shortly
- DNR Staff are working with MN.IT and MN Great Outdoors website to get this data completed
 - Rochester area is moving forward quickly with getting their data in, with volunteer help and also support from Whitewater State Park Naturalist, Sara Holger
- Whitewater State Park is planning to host a “Providers to Parks Field Day” this fall and will invite county public health, Mayo Clinic, and several other area healthcare providers
- Arielle Courtney is meeting with Minnesota Dept. of Health staff on Monday, July 29th to align efforts and possibly consider what a broader conference might look like in the future
- If you want to share information about ParkRx America, contact Arielle Courtney for outreach folders – she can mail them to you

MN Great Outdoors: Stefanie Stearns

- Any updates that need to be made to the data editor must be submitted before the MN State Fair
- The MN Great Outdoors website was recently awarded one of ten statewide Government Innovation Awards

Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC): May Yang

- May is currently working with the Conservation Corps to increase outreach in diverse communities (primarily women) interested in STEM environmental careers
- This program was developed through the LCCMR program
- Stipends are provided for fellowship participants
- Mentors are paired with students to further develop career skills
- Internship runs from May to August, and pays participants to gain on-the-job experiences in their desired career paths

Next Meeting:

- Meeting Host: DNR
- Meeting Location: TBD

Americans with Disabilities Act 2019 Anniversary Celebrations:

- Located at Hamline University on July 26th
- August 2nd in Duluth, MN

- More information can be found on the ADA's website

Bob Bierscheid adjourned the meeting.