

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101**

**MEETING OF
METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
And Tour At Bunker Hills Regional Park Campground Visitor Center**

**August 1, 2006
(Amended 8/16/06)**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Schmidt, Glen Skovholt, Gary Botzek, Robert Wicklund, Richard Jabs, Daniel Shlaferman, Michael Rainville, Natalie Steffen, Metropolitan Council Liaison to the Commission

ABSENT: Lars Erdahl, Emily Barbeau

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Skovholt called the meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to order at 3:15 p.m. on August 1, 2006.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Commissioner Shlaferman motioned to approve the August 1, 2006 agenda and the July 11, 2006 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Botzek. **The motion carried.**

PUBLIC INVITATION: Invitation to Interested Persons to Address the Commission on Matters Not on the Agenda (Each speaker is limited to a five-minute presentation.)

None.

BUSINESS:

Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature master plan, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

Skovholt talked about the Master Plan – Estimate Cost Summary included in the packet that was provided by Three Rivers Park District in response to several Commission members concerns. He discussed a meeting held at the Council including himself, the Council Chair, Regional Administrator, Community Development Director, MPOSC staff, and Three Rivers Park District staff regarding these materials.

Skovholt discussed the issue of the CIP being used for sculpture features and clarified that individual items described in the Master Plan will be submitted as the Master Plan is developed. He noted that the Park District has been very helpful in supplying information as requested by the Commission and Council staff.

Commissioner Schmidt motioned that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature Master Plan (Referral No. 19719-1).
2. Inform Three Rivers Park District that purely artistic components such as sculptures will not be eligible for regional recreation open space capital improvement funds.
3. Request Three Rivers Park District to submit to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and Metropolitan Council updated park development capital costs as design planning moves forward as part of the future capital improvement grant requests for Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature.

Commissioner Wicklund seconded the motion.

Botzek asked about restriction placed on sculptures and asked if this sets precedence. He asked if we have granted dollars previously and referenced a state statute regarding art in public buildings. Skovholt stated that the provision stated in the resolution pertains only to Silverwood and is not meant as a change in the policy plan.

Steffered suggested adding "at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature" after "...such as sculptures..." in the second part of Schmidt's motion.

Schmidt amended the motion as described above. The amended motion will read:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature master plan (Referral No. 19719-1).
2. Inform Three Rivers Park District that purely artistic components such as sculptures at Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature will not be eligible for regional recreation open space capital improvement funds.
3. Request Three Rivers Park District to submit to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and Metropolitan Council updated park development capital costs as design planning moves forward as part of future capital improvement grant requests for Silverwood Park Special Recreation Feature.

Wicklund seconded the amended motion. **The motion carried** unanimously - approved by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission with a 7-0 vote.

Chair Skovholt noted that although Commissioner Emily Barbeau could not attend the MPOSC meeting, he spoke with her prior to the meeting and stated that she supported the recommendations regarding Silverwood Park.

Commissioner Schmidt commended Three Rivers on their initiative to increase park visitation.

Chair Skovholt commended Three Rivers on their presentation and cooperation in answering questions and concerns that the Commission raised.

Amend 2006 Unified Capital Improvement Program to include \$739,000 grant for Noerenberg Gardens Visitor Center, Three Rivers Park District - Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst

Steffered discussed the request to amend the 2006 unified CIP to add \$739,000 grant for Noerenberg Gardens Visitor Center.

Commissioner Wicklund motioned that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2006 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) for Parks by adding \$739,000 in capital authority as follows:

Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program	\$ 10,928,000 (Approved July 12, 2006)
Additional grant for Noerenberg Gardens Visitor Center	\$ 739,000
New Total:	\$ 11,667,000

Commissioner Jabs seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Presentation on Anoka County Park System Plan - John VonDeLinde, Anoka County Parks Director

VonDeLinde welcomed Commissioners and introduced staff before giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Anoka County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation System Plan. He noted that copies of the system plan are currently being printed and could be made available to the Commission soon, if desired.

VonDeLinde discussed the history and the redevelopment of the park including the implementation of their 2020 Vision Plan. He described the major components of the Plan including:

- System History and Analysis
- Trends Forecasting and Public Input
- Mission, Vision, and Goals
- Strategic Planning Issues
- Natural Resources Management
- Park Master Plan Revisions
- Regional Trails Development
- Service and Maintenance Enhancement
- Capital Improvements and Finance Plan
- Performance Measurement

VonDeLinde discussed Stakeholder input.

Skovholt asked if water recreation needs are being met. VonDeLinde responded that he felt they were and stated that there are 7 public beaches and 3 rivers. He stated that virtually all their facilities are on the water and noted that they have a water park here at Bunker Hills as well.

Schmidt asked what the top ten opportunities folks are looking for are. VonDeLinde talked about the water park and stated that folks are asking for skateboard parks, although he noted that they do not have any that have been provided in city park systems.

Skovholt asked about the campsites – how have they grown and what will the need be in 15 years. VonDeLinde responded that they have added 30 sites to Bunker Hills and they're looking at adding more water and electricity to current sites to meet RV needs. He then discussed future facility needs showing a matrix describing those needs.

VonDeLinde discussed special planning issues including:

- Acquisitions
- Trail Development
- Boundary Amendments
- Park Reclassification
- Mississippi West Regional Park Development
- Emerging Recreational Facilities
- Camping Expansion
- Program Services Expansion

VonDeLinde discussed Master Plan updates.

Skovholt asked when a trail is completed, so that it loops, does that increase usage. VonDeLinde believed that it does.

VonDeLinde discussed the future focus of the system and Capital investment needs by category, totally \$67,189,000.

VonDeLinde discussed operational performance and O&M grants. Stefferud stated that we will be talking about this topic at our next meeting.

VonDeLinde discussed annual operating budget needs for 2006-2020. He also discussed the next steps, including:

- Regional Trail Plan Amendments
- Regional Trail Master Plan Approvals
- Regional Park Master Plan Amendments

Botzek asked about ATV usage in parks. VonDeLinde stated that they do not have ATV trails in the system currently, however noted that they are allowed along the County Highways. He stated that they have looked at developing an ATV training area for safety instruction, etc., however stated that regional parks are too small and too urban for ATV trails.

Skovholt asked if hunting opportunities were adequate. VonDeLinde stated that with the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area, there are 14,000 acres available for hunting and feels that hunting opportunities in Anoka County are quite abundant.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Skovholt adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

TOUR

Commissioners took a bus tour of Bunker Hills Regional Park, ending with a ribbon cutting celebration/dinner at the barbecue facility of the new picnic shelter.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary

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