



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Minutes for July 22, 2020

Sartell Community Center

Sartell, MN

APPROVED

Commissioners Present: Tim Engrav, Beth Pierce, Bryan Pike, Matthew Hill, Peg Furshong, Brad Bonk, Rick Anderson, Ted Suss, Barry Wendorf, Jonathan Wolf, Tom Ryan, Tom Stoa (via Zoom), Jen Foley

Commissioners Absent: None

Consultants Present: Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Ryan at 10:12am:

Future Meeting Schedule

Chair Ryan introduced a discussion about the location of meetings for the remainder of 2020, recognizing that we need to remain flexible if the pandemic requires changing back to virtual meetings. *Ryan* asked Commissioners to consider keeping meetings for the remainder of the year at the Sartell Community Center and visiting the locations originally scheduled for 2020 in 2021. Discussion followed and *Ryan* asked Commissioners to state their opinions. Consensus was to stay in Sartell for the remainder of the year as long as it's safe to do so. It was agreed that the Executive Committee and *Mattson* would decide whether an August meeting was necessary based on workload.

Motion by *Furshong* to remain in Sartell through 2020, resume moving our meetings around Greater Minnesota in 2021, meeting at the locations we cancelled in 2020.

Second by *Bonk*

Motion Approved

2. Acknowledge Members of the Public in Attendance and introduction of Commissioner Jonathan Wolf when he joined the meeting.

No members of the public in attendance or via Zoom. Commissioner Wolf arrived at the meeting later due to scheduling conflicts. Appreciation was expressed that Wolf was able to arrange his schedule to be in attendance on short notice of his appointment.

3. Approval of Agenda for July 22, 2020, Minutes from June 24, 2020 and Treasurer's Report through June 2020.

Motion by Furshong

Second by Engrav

Motion Approved

4. Executive Director's Report

Mattson submitted a written report (attachment to July minutes as Item 4).

Supplemental information was provided to Commissioners regarding the reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Act. Discussion also took place regarding an appropriate show of appreciation to retiring Commissioners. *Mattson* was directed to research plaques of appreciation and distribute for Commissioner comment prior to the August meeting.

5. System Plan Coordinator's Report

Czapiewski submitted a written report (attachment to July minutes as Item 5).

Czapiewski showed a preview of the funding applications started and submitted to date. There are 13 total, three of which have been submitted, six have dollar amounts noted, for a total of \$5,669,316. *Pierce* asked for clarification on the \$1.3 million in carry over to make whole in FY22.

There is an opportunity for Commissioners to attend a virtual workshop *Czapiewski* is conducting on August 11 for the American Planning Association Minnesota Chapter. This is a great opportunity to attend a webinar with *Czapiewski* discussing the GMRPTC Master Planning process.

Czapiewski also discussed the resolutions, a memorandum agreement, that the applicants submit with their funding applications, not all applicants have been using the resolution required. In a poll of the Commissioners all agreed that we should require the resolution, give the applicants additional time to submit the proper resolution. Call out the requirement on the application toolbox page more boldly.

Motion by Anderson, to require use the of the updated resolution in the application toolbox. Applicants have until August 31 to file the correct resolution with their application.

Second by Pike

Motion Approved

6. Items from Members and Letters to the Commission

Wendorf – written purchase agreement as far as a land acquisition, an MOU should be in place for that or is consistent for what we're looking for.

Engrav – District 1 is seeing a lot of outdoor recreational use is occurring, and from many people who are not familiar with outdoors, people cutting down trees, leaving garbage, etc. People introducing themselves to the outdoors, which is great, but there are some negative side effects.

Bonk – a great number of visitors to their parks, stress on the parks in the form of garbage and cleaning.

Furshong – the virus has increased visitors in their parks, seeing more communities of color using the parks. Connecting people to the outdoors is ever more important during this health crisis.

Pierce – discussed the calls she sat in on the Outdoor Recreation Office meetings.

Pike – enjoying camping in District 3.

Suss – watched the creation of the Commission and is impressed with the detail that we have created. Can we have a primer on the application process over some meetings and review all the documents and explain the process to gain a better understanding.

Hill - nothing

Anderson – should we use the August meeting for a time to review the application process, going through it from beginning to end. Going through the funding application in advance of the September meeting's first review of the applications would be very helpful.

Ryan - nothing

Foley – nothing

Wolf - nothing

Stoa – questioned the August meeting with regard to any State Fair commitments.

Mattson, PTLAC does not have the DNR Theatre any longer but will have an information space within the DNR building, or outdoors.

7. New Business:

7.1 Funding Scoring Protocol

Chair Ryan introduced this agenda item with background as to how this discussion arrived on the agenda. Would like to also clarify during the discussion about how the funding scoring process has evolved and is currently structured.

Commissioner Pike provided a review of why he requested we should have an overview how our funding process works and the subsequent memo. Discussion followed on topics of who is involved in the scoring, how it has evolved and what could change. Background on the addition of the comments from the Evaluation Team and who those members are and how the process has evolved over the years. Description of how the projects are vetted by *Czapiewski* and *Mattson*; site visits, follow up questions and reporting. Commissioners review the projects in their districts (some review all the applications) and are invited to attend the site visits. Commissioners expressed a comfort level with the process as it's currently working, with scoring done by Consultants and review, discussion and oversight by Commissioners. There was discussion from the Commissioners about what is

provided to the applicants in terms of information or data sharing following the Commission's funding recommendations.

7.2 Data Management System Review

Czapiewski provided an overview of the data management system and how to access the portal to review applications for designation and funding as well as master plans.

8. Old Business:

8.1 Strategic Plan Update

Continued review of Section II, with the modifications suggested during the June meeting. Commissioners weighed in on the edited and modified section. *Hill* stated he felt *Czapiewski* did a good job of capturing the additional comments and incorporating them.

Czapiewski also showed the new maps that have been developed by Hagstrom Engineering per his request for more detailed maps. The new maps are much more accurate as he worked with Jillian to review and confirm each shape file in the system. These maps will be integrated into the system plan.

8.2 Funding Work Group Discussion

Commissioners *Engrav* and *Anderson* provided an update of the work of the group to date. Progress is not being made. We value our partners and want to continue working toward a collegial consensus recommendation. There are only two meetings left in which to complete our work. We will continue to do our work in good faith and participate in the process.

9. Approval of July Expenses

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|----------------|-------------|
| Consultants: | \$20,724.16 |
| Commissioners: | \$2,044.26 |
| Total | \$22,768.42 |

Motion by Bonk

Second by Hill

Motion Approved

10. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

August 26 in Sartell for a review of the application process with all Commissioners.