

MINUTES

DAKOTA COUNTY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

July 26, 2011

1 Mendota Road, West St. Paul, Conference Room 520, West St. Paul,, Minnesota

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Paul Krause, Chair of the Physical Development Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners in attendance:

Commissioner Joseph A. Harris, District 1 (arrived at 9:08 a.m.)
 Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord, District 2
 Commissioner Thomas Egan, District 3
 Commissioner Liz Workman, District 5
 Commissioner Paul J. Krause, District 6
 Commissioner Willis E. Branning, District 7 (left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.)

Absent:

Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, District 4

Also in attendance were:

Brandt Richardson, County Administrator
 Lynn Thompson, Division Director
 Jay Stassen, Assistant County Attorney
 Jeanne Nash Hoffmann, Administrative Coordinator

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Community Services Division introduced the following new staff.

Tanya Boehler, a new employee with Community Corrections.

Joleen Navarro, Emily Strong, Angela Tabolich, and Erin Good, new employees in Employment and Economic Assistance

Lynn Thompson introduced Jenn McIntosh, the new ACS staff in the Physical Development Division.

3. AUDIENCE

Chair Krause asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Committee on an item not on the agenda or if anyone wished to discuss an item on the Consent Agenda. No one came forward.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Gaylord, Second by Commissioner Egan, and passed on a 5-0 vote (in the absence of Commissioners Harris and Schouweiler) to approve the agenda as presented on July 26, 2011.

5. CONSENT/INFORMATION AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Workman, Second by Commissioner Gaylord, and passed on a 5-0 vote (in the absence of Commissioners Harris and Schouweiler) to approve the consent agenda.

5.1 – Minutes Of The June 14, 2011 Meeting

5.2 – Award of Bid And Authorization To Execute Contract With Max Steininger, Inc. For Construction of Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center Phase II Project

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 01-361 (May 15, 2001), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan (master plan); and

WHEREAS, the master plan provides direction for the development of Lebanon Hills Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 opening of the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center was the first major improvement project guided by the master plan and is considered "Phase I" of the visitor center campus development; and

WHEREAS, the master plan provides direction on additional development near the visitor center to improve recreational experience, ecological condition and other objectives; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 10-073 (February 9, 2010), the County Board approved a preferred development concept plan for the visitor center campus area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to advertisement, bids were received for the Phase II project until 2:00 p.m. on July 19, 2011; and

WHEREAS, based on the bids, staff recommends the acceptance of the base bid and alternatives #1, 2, 3, 6 and 8; and

WHEREAS, the bid of Max Steinger, Inc. in the base bid amount of \$1,289,951, and alternative #1 in the amount of +\$211,851, alternative #2 in the amount of +\$0.01 (one cent), alternative #3 in the amount -\$78,000, alternative #6 in the amount of -\$73,000 and alternative #8 in the amount of +\$2,000 was the lowest responsible bid received; and

WHEREAS, the approved 2011 Parks and Open Space Capital Improvement Program includes \$1,418,000 for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby awards the bid to and authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute the contract with Max Steinger, Inc. for the Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center Phase II Project, in the amount not to exceed \$1,352,802.01, including the base bid and alternatives #1, 2, 3, 6 and 8, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

5.3 – Reallocation Of Funding Sources For 16.8 Acre Grannis Grannis O'Brien Permanent Natural Area Conservation Easement

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 03-334 (June 17, 2003), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted Farmland and Natural Areas Program (FNAP) guidelines; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines include a County funding cap of \$5,000 per acre for a permanent conservation easement on private property; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 11-302 (June 21, 2011), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized expending \$323,000 to acquire a 16.8-acre permanent natural area conservation easement on the Grannis/Grannis/O'Brien property in Inver Grove Heights; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 11-302 (June 21, 2011), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved a budget amendment to use \$193,000 of FNAP bond funds and \$130,000 of DNR Metro Greenways program funds for the Grannis/Grannis/O'Brien easement; and

WHEREAS, existing County Board policy limits the amount of County funding for the 16.8-acre Grannis/Grannis/O'Brien easement to no more than \$84,000 of FNAP funds; and

WHEREAS, the County has received state fiscal year 2010 (FY 10) Outdoor Heritage funds for Marcott Lakes and other shoreline protection projects; and

WHEREAS, FY10 Outdoor Heritage funds can be used to replace the portion of FNAP funds greater than the \$5,000 acre funding cap previously allocated for the Grannis/Grannis/O'Brien easement; and

WHEREAS, the \$109,000 of the FNAP funds can be used to replace FY10 Outdoor Heritage funds and be allocated for the phase II Marcott Lakes acquisition project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the 2011 Farmland and Natural Areas Program budget as follows:

Expense	
Acquisition of the Grannis/Grannis/O'Brien easement	\$320,000
Closing and other associated acquisition costs	3,000
Total Expenses	\$323,000
Revenue	
FNAP Fund Balance	\$84,000
Metro Greenways	130,000
FY10 Outdoor Heritage Fund	109,000
Total Revenue	\$323,000

5.4 – Authorization To Execute Separate Joint Powers Agreements With Cities Of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, And Lakeville For County Maintenance Of City Traffic Signals

WHEREAS, to promote a safe and efficient transportation system throughout Dakota County, the County's Transportation Plan (Policy P.10) provides for traffic signal maintenance assistance to the cities on a reimbursable basis; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Dakota County executed separate agreements with the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville to provide County maintenance for city traffic signals at a reimbursable annual charge; and

WHEREAS, to provide more responsive maintenance to the cities and reduce administration of amendments, it is requested that the County Board authorizes the County Engineer to accept additional new city signals for county maintenance and initial installation assistance based on the Engineer's evaluation of staff and resource availability to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, the County Engineer recommends entering into a new separate joint powers agreement with each of the cities to incorporate language for maintaining signals, denoting the County Engineer's authority to approve the addition of city signals for county maintenance when requested by the cities, and to establish an annual fee process consistent with the Dakota County fee assessments; and

WHEREAS, the new agreement establishes the 2011 cost of services at \$1,400 per signal for the County to provide routine maintenance and urgent service calls for traffic signals and \$1,600 for initial set-up, to be prorated for the term of July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the fees are based on assessment of all costs associated with signal maintenance including staff time, vehicles, equipment, material and overhead costs; and

WHEREAS, a budget amendment to the Transportation Department's Operating Budget may be requested to reflect the \$3,236 increase in expense and revenue; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the new agreement, the maintenance and set-up assistance rates will be evaluated annually to adjust for actual costs as part of the Dakota County Transportation Fee Schedule, and

WHEREAS, the cities have reviewed the new agreement language and fees and all are amenable of execution of the new agreement; and

WHEREAS, the new signal maintenance agreements will supersede the existing agreements with the cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute new separate joint powers agreements, as substantially presented to the Physical Development Committee on July 26, 2011, for County maintenance of city owned signals with the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Engineer to accept additional city signals for County maintenance based on the Engineer's evaluation of staff and resource availability to perform the work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2011 Transportation Department's Operating Budget is hereby amended as follows:

Expense	
Transportation Operating Budget for City Maintenance	\$3,236
Total Expense	\$3,236

Revenue	
City Maintenance Share Transportation Operating Budget for City Maintenance	\$3,236
Total Revenue	\$3,236

5.5 – Plat Commission Update

This was an information item; no action was requested.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

Commissioner Harris took his chair at 9:08.

6.1 – Approval Of Refined Concept For New Regional Park Development Master Plan

Parks Director Steve Sullivan and Senior Planning and Analysis staff Mary Jackson briefed this item. Discussion was held on specific usage of park areas, costs to implement the concepts, and the phasing of the concepts. Staff indicated that following this meeting, work would begin on developing a phasing approach that makes sense. Staff will return to a Committee meeting with a draft plan.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, Second by Commissioner Egan and passed on a 6-0 vote in the absence of Commissioner Schouweiler, to recommend that the County Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Dakota County acquired its newest park in 2008, a 456-acre regional park in Empire Township and adjacent to the 2,840-acre Vermillion Highlands modified Wildlife Management Area (MWMA); and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2010 (Resolution No. 10-344), the County Board authorized execution of a contract with Sanders, Wacker, Bergly, Inc. (consultant) to prepare a development master plan for the regional park and further refine collaborative recreation on the MWMA; and

WHEREAS, the development master plan will establish the new park vision; identify development, restoration, interagency collaboration and operational needs; and develop a cost estimate and phasing approach for park development, and is required by the Metropolitan Council to be eligible for future operations and maintenance, capital improvement, and park and trail legacy funding; and

WHEREAS, with input from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the University of Minnesota (UM), Empire Township, an interagency Technical Advisory Group, and extensive public engagement, three draft concept alternatives were prepared with the following themes: 1) Strength through Collaboration, 2) Community Commons, and 3) Northwest Gathering; and

WHEREAS, the draft concepts included events areas, trails, a regional trail segment, an off-leash dog area, disc golf, picnicking, an education center, unique camping cabins, a visitor center that could include a café, public art, interpretive facilities, wildlife viewing blinds, and shared maintenance facilities; and

WHEREAS, two concepts featured a collaborative agricultural educational area for community gardens and fruit, nut, and other food crops; and

WHEREAS, the concepts differed in road access, regional trail alignments, development locations, and partnership opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the draft concept alternatives entered a 30-day public comment period from March 22 to April 21, with concept presentations to the Vermillion Highlands Operations and Steering committees; parks committees for Empire, Rosemount, Farmington, and Lakeville; and an open house on April 18; and

WHEREAS, stakeholder agency and public comments have been incorporated into a preferred refined concept, which places major gathering areas in the park's eastern plateau and northern stovepipe, with events areas, trails throughout the park, an off-leash dog area, disc golf, picnicking, an education center, unique camping cabins, a visitor center that could include a café, public art, interpretive facilities, wildlife viewing blinds, and maintenance facilities; and

WHEREAS, the refined concept provides major access on a future internal park road and regional trail segment; and

WHEREAS, the refined concept provides collaborative recreation opportunities on the Vermillion Highlands with the Lone Rock equestrian and hiking trail and trailhead with future re-location of the equestrian uses to the northern portion of the MWMA; a developed river use area on the south side of the Vermillion River in the Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area and a primitive river use area in the Vermillion River Wildlife Management Area south of the end of Annette Avenue; and a collaborative agricultural educational area for community gardens and fruit, nut, and other food crops, all subject to further refinement discussions with the MDNR and UM.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the refined concept as the foundation of the draft development master plan for the new regional park, as presented to the Physical Development Committee meeting on July 26, 2011.

6.2 – Summary Of Dakota County And Regional Solid Waste Master Plan Revision Efforts

Environmental Management Director Jeff Harthun briefed this item and responded to questions. Discussion was held on the importance of getting proper disposal of tires included in the MPCA plan. Further discussion was held on disposal of pharmaceutical products. Three collection boxes will be open by the end of the year at the West St. Paul, Burnsville and Hastings Police Departments. Staff will continue to research additional options and opportunities. This was an information item; no action was requested.

Commissioner Branning left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

6.3 – Adoption Of County Project 50-17, Highway 50 And 60 Intersection Study Recommendations

Traffic Engineer Kristi Sebastian briefed this item and responded to questions.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, Second by Commissioner Egan and passed on a 5-0 vote (in the absence of Commissioners Branning and Schouweiler) to recommend that the County Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Transportation Department and the City of Lakeville conducted a study to assess the operation and develop a long-term improvement measure for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 50 (Kenwood Trail) and CSAH 60 (185th Street); and

WHEREAS, the study included evaluation and a public involvement process to determine future intersection improvements to address safety and mobility while considering costs; and

WHEREAS, a signalized intersection with increased capacity and full multi-lane (2 lanes in all directions) roundabout alternatives were evaluated; and

WHEREAS, while both alternatives could operate acceptably given the expected traffic volumes, the roundabout has a lower cost, greater safety benefit, and better operation during the peak periods and throughout the day compared to the signalized intersection option; and

WHEREAS, the final study recommendation of a multi-lane roundabout at the intersection meets the objectives of safety and mobility and was supported by the Lakeville City Council on July 18, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the County Engineer recommends adoption of the County Project (CP) 50-17 Study recommendations for the CSAH 50 (Kenwood Trail) and CSAH 60 (185th Street) intersection, including implementation of a multi-lane roundabout as the most cost effective measure to accommodate current and future traffic volumes in a safe and efficient manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the County Project Study for the CSAH 50 and CSAH 60 intersection, as presented to the Physical Development Committee on July 26, 2011.

6.4 – Update On Transportation Capital Improvement Program Construction Projects

Construction Engineer Ross Beckwith briefed this item and responded to questions.

Information only; no action requested

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Lynn Thompson, Physical Development Director, provided her update to the Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill Associate Barry Tilley briefed the Committee on the legislative bills that were adopted earlier this month that ended the state shut down. Finance Director Matt Smith provided further information; Stephanie Radke briefed on outcomes in programs that affected Community Services Division; Lynn Thompson briefed on outcomes in programs that affected Physical Development Division.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gaylord, Second by Commissioner Harris to adjourn the Physical Development Committee of the Whole meeting at 12:10 p.m.. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeanne Nash Hoffmann
Administrative Coordinator