

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Minutes for July 27, 2016

Detroit Mountain Recreation Area, Detroit Lakes, MN

APPROVED

Commissioners in Attendance: Mike Hulett, Marc Mattice, Tom Ryan, Tim Kennedy, Rick Anderson, Jannik Anderson, LuAnn Wilcox, Rita Albrecht, Barry Wendorf, Peg Furshong, Keith Nelson, Tom Schmitz, Bryan Pike

Staff and Consultants Present: Renee Mattson, Executive Director, Joe Czapiewski, System Plan Coordinator, Kathy and Jeff Schoenbauer, Schoenbauer Consulting

1. Meeting called to order at 10:10am by Chair Hulett

GRMPTC was welcomed to Detroit Mountain on behalf of the Mountain by Brad Green from the City of Detroit Lakes.

2. Approval of June 22, 2016 Minutes:

Motion by Pike

Second by R. Anderson

Commissioner Wilcox asked for a correction in 9.2 Connecting People to the Outdoors. Wilcox did not state that there is an equal distribution of funds for the four pillars; 25%, 25%, 25% and 25%. Wilcox also said she was proposing a LAC task force and the GMRPTC Commissioners would be a subcommittee of that task force

Motion approved with that change

3. Treasurers Report:

Motion by Schmitz

Second by Wilcox

Mattson stated the new operating budget grant will be coming through DNR soon, in the amount of \$362,000

Motion Approved

4. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Schmitz

Second by Furshong

Motion Approved

5. Members of the Public: Elizabeth Wefel, Flaherty & Hood/Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails, Brad Green, City of Detroit Lakes, Andrew Besold, West Central Initiative.

Wefel talked about membership in the Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails group. She also discussed the upcoming ITV meeting on August 17 which will be held in each of the 6 Districts.

There was additional discussion regarding the upcoming legislative session and how we frame a discussion out visitor counts in Greater Minnesota. Commissioner Nelson noted we can track sales tax revenues to show the increased numbers in the summer in Greater Minnesota and the provides justification or funding. Commissioner Albrecht noted that April sales tax collections in Bemidji are up year to date by 18.3%. Commissioner Furshong suggested looking at similar models in other areas, other states. Commissioner Wendorf commented that 100's of millions of investment has been made in the metro parks and until recently very little comparatively in Greater Minnesota because we did not have the same dedicated funds.

6. **Executive Director's Report:** Mattson provided copies of the print edition of the System Plan and Work Plan for 2016, gave a report on the recent LAC meetings and with Commissioner R. Anderson reported on the recent meeting with DNR Parks and Trails Director Erika Rivers and the discussion that was held regarding the work on the Casey Jones Trail.

7. **Items from members and letters to the Commission:**

Commissioner Wilcox commented on the recent LAC meeting she attended and the "money game" that was a part of an exercise to allocate funds to the four pillars. She felt was a worthwhile and interesting exercise.

Commissioner Ryan discussed the Zumbro Watershed Partnership meeting that will be held in Rochester on August 11 and would be attended by ED Mattson and himself.

Visitor to the meeting Andrew Besold discussed trails he has observed and ridden in other states and ways in which the Commission might consider incorporating those ideas into our planning.

8. **System Plan Coordinator Report:**

Joe reported on the positive work that took place in the most recent round of DPC meetings, the only District left is District 4 and that meeting will be held on August 1. The DPCs have been very engaged in the work on the Strategic Initiatives. There are 15-20 initiatives the Commission will be working on in the next three to five years.

This is the time when we update the DPC memberships. Joe provided a chart with a list of current members, those leaving and the applications we have received, and those members who wish to remain.

We do have one ETeam member who will be leaving due to a job change which doesn't allow him the time to be involved. We do have an alternate member who has attended one of the meetings and would be a good choice to fill the open slot as he does have the qualifications and the interest to continue.

Motion to approve the alternate ETeam member as an addition to the team by Ryan
Second by Pike

Commissioner Nelson suggested we find applicants for the now open alternate position.
Motion approved

Motion to approve the new DPC members Ryan
Second by Kennedy
Motion approved

9. New Business:

9.1 FY17 Budget Discussion and Approval

Mattson provided a Budget Worksheet for the upcoming budget year with a starting date of July 1, 2016. The worksheet has 2016 Actual expenditures and the 2017 Budget. Mattson noted that the current contractor working on the DMS portals is not serving our needs well. There are too many issues that we are encountering every day and we are not serving our constituents well, in addition to spending literally hours of Joe's and Mattson's time. We need to pull back from the System Plan being integrated into the DMS until we have a new contractor who can do the work we need done. The Master Plan Portal is not working well; it's created numerous frustrations for everyone dealing with it. It was agreed we will seek a new firm to move the DMS to.

Motion to approve the FY2017 operation budget by Pike
Second by Schmitz
Motion approved

9.2 FY18 FY19 Budget Request of the Legislature

Mattson distributed the proposed Legislative Request that will come through the DNR Budget Process. The total request for FY18 is \$396,649 and the total request for FY19 is \$372,039 for a total biennium request of \$768,688.

Commissioner Nelson suggested this is a very conservative budget. Commissioner Schmitz questioned the percentages shown in the worksheet and Mattson clarified the budget proposed represents a 7.05% increase over the FY16/FY17 budgets.

Commissioner Furshong voiced concern about the small amount budgeted for Marketing and Communications in both years. Following extensive discussion, it was determined

that the amount should be increased to direct more dollars into the Marketing and Communications category. There were also concerns about the work that should be done to better raise the profile of the parks and trails that have been designated in Greater Minnesota. Commissioners Pike and Furshong volunteered to serve on the Marketing Committee.

Motion by R. Anderson to approve the budget with an increase for FY18 and FY19 by \$25,000 each year, with the increase to be assigned to the budget at the discretion of the ED, but with a distinct increase to the Marketing and Communications budget.

Second by Furshong

Motion approved

9.3 Review, discussion and approval of the 2016 projects

Czapiewski presented the 14 parks and trails that were recently scored by the ETeam. A grid outlined the Name, Location, Class, Description, Score, ETeam Comments, Related Initiatives, Other Considerations and Strategic Theme.

After a thought provoking and in depth discussion about the projects and the way in which the projects were vetted the Commission voted on the slate of projects as a whole.

Motion by Nelson to approve the 14 projects as scored by the ETeam and vetted by the staff and consultant team and presented to the Commission.

Second by Schmitz

Motion approved with an abstention by Furshong

9.4 Update on the Executive Committee Meeting

Hulett provided an overview of the morning's executive meeting, and requested that there be a report on the legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Wefel provided context for the session and informed the group that GMP&T will be working on an agenda for their work.

9.5 Update on upcoming meetings and initiatives

The next Commission meeting will be held in Duluth at Hartley Nature Center on August 24, the following day, August 25 the Legacy Advisory Committee meeting will be held at Hartley Nature Center as well. In September the Commission will be back in Sartell, the October meeting will be held in Moorhead at MB Johnson Park, a designated facility.

10. Consent Agenda

Consulting Services	\$26,787.75
Commission Expenses	\$3,156.98

DPC Expenses	\$419.78
ETeam Expenses	<u>\$166.16</u>
Total	\$30,530.67

Motion by Mattice

Second by J. Anderson

Motion approved