Resolution 2014-267

Resolution Granting an Access and Utility Agreement to CenterPoint Energy for an Underground Natural Gas Line through Minnehaha Falls Regional Park

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was created by the Minnesota Legislature in April 1883 and has the authority to manage and operate park facilities;

Whereas, The MPRB owns and operates Minnehaha Falls Regional Park, across which an underground natural gas line exists to serve the adjacent Minnesota Veterans Home;

Whereas, CenterPoint Energy has determined the need to replace the gas line;

Whereas, MPRB staff has worked with CenterPoint Energy on alignment alternatives that minimize impacts to vegetation, facilities and topography on park property; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions “Dynamic parks shape city character and meet diverse community needs;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners grant an access and utility agreement to CenterPoint Energy for an underground natural gas line through Minnehaha Falls Regional Park; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: August 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolution Granting an Access and Utility Agreement to CenterPoint Energy for an Underground Natural Gas Line through Minnehaha Falls Regional Park

BACKGROUND

This Board action considers an agreement with CenterPoint Energy to install an underground natural gas line across a portion of Minnehaha Falls Regional Park to replace the line that serves the Minnesota Veterans Home adjacent to the park.

All alternative locations across public rights-of-way and other public property for the gas line have been explored and proven infeasible. MPRB staff has worked with CenterPoint to find the least impactful alignment alternative. The new line will be installed through existing roadway and trail areas to minimize impacts on trees.

In compensation for the temporary access and permanent license to maintain the gas line, CenterPoint is prepared to pay a one-time temporary access fee of $4,692, plus restore any grass or other areas of the park disrupted by the installation. Because the new line replaces an existing easement area and actually covers less square footage than the old easement, there will be no fee for the revised permanent easement area. The temporary access fee was calculated using square footage values paid to the MPRB by other public entities recently installing similar utilities across similar properties (See *Attachment A* – proposed Access and Utility Agreement). The term of the agreement is twenty-five years.

Park Board legal counsel has reviewed and approved the proposed Access and Utility Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends granting an access and utility agreement to CenterPoint Energy for an underground natural gas line through Minnehaha Falls Regional Park.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statement in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Vision Theme 3: Dynamic parks shape city character and meet diverse community needs.

Goal: Focused land management supports current and future generations.

HISTORY:

08/06/14	**Administration & Finance Committee**	**ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - Access Utility Agmt Minnehaha (PDF)

Prepared By: Renay Leone, Real Estate Coordinator, Design and Project Management
Review:
Cliff Swenson Completed 07/22/2014 4:30 PM
Bruce Chamberlain Completed 07/22/2014 5:08 PM
Jayne Miller Completed 07/23/2014 12:59 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending
Administration & Finance Committee Completed 08/15/2014 11:05 AM