Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2020-121

Resolution Authorizing a Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of Minnesota, Acting through Its Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a Feasibility Study for the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center

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

Whereas, The MPRB has a long-term lease with the State of Minnesota, acting through its commissioner of Natural Resources (State), to operate the Fort Snelling Golf Course at the Upper Post of Fort Snelling on land owned by the State;

Whereas, The MPRB and the State are considering the transformation of the Fort Snelling Golf Course to the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center;

Whereas, As the first step in considering the transformation, the MPRB and the State desire to study the feasibility of creating the Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center, a facility that would create a one-of-a-kind experience with particular focus on safely introducing urban youth to outdoor, nature-based experiences and would leverage the resources and experiences of the MPRB and the State;

Whereas, The State is providing funding for the feasibility study for the Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center to an amount not exceeding $100,000 through a Joint Powers Agreement;

Whereas, Under the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the MPRB prepared and advertised a request for proposals for feasibility study services and entered into a contract with the consultant selected to lead the feasibility study;

Whereas, Under the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), the MPRB is also performing all administrative tasks related to the consultant contract;

Whereas, The existing Joint Powers Agreement with the State expired on May 24, 2019 before the feasibility study could be finalized, and the study is currently 80% complete;

Whereas, This resolution provides for executive of a new Joint Powers Agreement with the State with the remaining funds from the original JPA in the amount of $17,000.50 to complete the study during 2020; and

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Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community;"

Resolved, That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for completion of a Feasibility Study for the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center; and

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

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TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: March 4, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing a Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of Minnesota, Acting through Its Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a Feasibility Study for the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center

BACKGROUND

This action authorizes a new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the State of Minnesota, acting through its commissioner of Natural Resources and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for a Feasibility Study for the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center. The original Joint Powers Agreement between the State and MPRB was approved on May 24, 2017. The JPA has expired before the study could be completed. The study is 80% complete. This new JPA (Attachment A) with the State of Minnesota will utilize the remainder of the funds from the original JPA to complete the study throughout 2020.

The MPRB operates the Fort Snelling Golf Course at the Upper Post of Fort Snelling on lands leased from the State of Minnesota, acting through its commission of Natural Resources (State). During the last several years, the MRPB and the State have discussed the potential for an evolution of the golf course property with a focus on outdoor skills development and programming oriented to outdoor adventures. The MPRB and the State would pursue the project jointly, from its initial planning to potentially its implementation and operations. The MPRB and State have acknowledged the following shared broad goals for the Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center:

- To create a facility capable of providing instruction and experiences that encourages urban youth and others without easy or direct access to outdoor spaces to engage in outdoor recreational and nature-focused experiences;
- To motivate urban youth and others to expand their outdoor experiences in a state or regional park where nature is a primary motivation for a visit;
- To offer instruction in skills and activities unique to outdoor experiences that cannot be reasonably delivered in an urban recreation center and that would not be part of a typical school curriculum;
- To leverage the location of the proposed Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center, particularly its location relative to regional light rail transit and the Minneapolis-

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Saint Paul International Airport, to create a regional destination for training, outdoor adventures, and educational activities; and

- To provide amenities, activities, training, and programs locally that meet metropolitan outdoor enthusiasts' activity interests.

The initial step in pursuit of the Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center was to engage a consultant to perform a feasibility study. The State is funding the feasibility study under the terms of a Joint Powers Agreement to an amount of a total of $100,000. In return, the MPRB is performing certain tasks related to accomplishing the feasibility study including:

- preparing and advertising a request for proposals for feasibility study services, a task which has been completed;
- entering into a contract with the consultant selected to lead the feasibility study, a task which has been completed; and
- performing all administrative tasks related to the consultant contract.

The new JPA would allow for completion of the study with the remaining funds from the original JPA in the amount of $17,000.50.

This Joint Powers Agreement has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel as to form and content.

Staff requests that this resolution be considered by the Planning Committee and the full Board on January 22, 2020 in order to initiate the work and maintain the proposed schedule for delivery of a complete feasibility study.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for completion of a Feasibility Study for the Fort Snelling Upper Post Outdoor Skills and Adventure Center.

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

Vision Theme 2: Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community

Goal: People play, learn, and develop a greater capacity to enjoy life.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - Fort Snelling Skills Area JPA 2020 (PDF)

Prepared By: Crystal Passi, Design Project Manager, Design and Project Management
Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	01/13/2020 10:30 AM
Cliff Swenson	Completed	01/13/2020 12:00 PM
Michael Schroeder	Skipped	01/13/2020 12:00 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	01/13/2020 1:01 PM
Al Bangoura	Completed	01/14/2020 12:06 PM
Planning Committee	Pending	01/22/2020 5:50 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	02/19/2020 5:00 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	03/04/2020 5:00 PM