Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2020-138

Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota for a Cooperative Planning and Slope Observation Effort Related to the July 17, 2019 East River Parkway Slope Failure Site

Whereas, 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, MPRB owns East River Parkway within Mississippi Gorge Regional Park and owns the land under the roadway between Arlington Street SE and Fulton Street SE;

Whereas, On July 17, 2019 the MPRB was informed that there was a slope failure along East River Parkway between Washington Avenue SE and Arlington Street SE and along the Mississippi River;

Whereas, East River Parkway between SE Washington Avenue and Arlington Street was closed to all traffic immediately after the MPRB was made aware of the slope failure and an assessment of the slope was initiated;

Whereas, The northbound lane of East River Parkway was opened to vehicle traffic on July 22, 2019 after an the initial assessment by a professional engineer and geologist approved the opening, and upon further assessment approved the opening of the southbound lane as well on August 9, 2019;

Whereas, The University of Minnesota (U of M) and the MPRB desire to cooperate in the observation and planning effort generally along the river bluff including East River Parkway and East River Road between the No. 9 Bridge and East River Flats Park, an area encompassing the zone of the slope failure and extending reasonably beyond from a geotechnical perspective;

Whereas, The U of M and the MPRB each own approximately one-half of the study and slope observation area; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "'A safe place to play, recreate, contemplate, and celebrate" and "Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves an agreement between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota for a cooperative planning and slope observation effort related to the July 17, 2019 East River Parkway slope failure site; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take

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all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

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TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: March 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving an Agreement Between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota for a Cooperative Planning and Slope Observation Effort Related to the July 17, 2019 East River Parkway Slope Failure Site

BACKGROUND

This resolution allows the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to enter into an agreement with the University of Minnesota (U of M) to cooperatively plan, survey, and monitor the slope on the east bank of the Mississippi River between the No. 9 Bridge and East River Flats Park on both MPRB property and U of M property.

During the morning of July 17, of 2019, a 90-foot long segment of soil situated along the river gorge's steep bank sloughed into the river. Geotechnical experts engaged by the MPRB suggested the slope failure resulted from recent precipitation and/or the loss of underlying ledge rock support due to weathering of the underlying limestone. The cause of the slope failure appears to be the direct result of both natural causes and introduced factors related to underground water movements.

The roadway was been temporarily narrowed following the slope failure but remains open to north- and south-bound vehicle traffic, however the bicycle trail is closed as it is situated too close to the bluff's edge to be considered fully safe for use. Temporary concrete barriers have been installed at a safe distance from the bluff's edge to constrain parkway traffic to the east side of the road.

A timeline subsequent to the slope failure event includes the following:

- July 17, 2019 - Notification of the slope failure was given to the MPRB. MPRB, University of Minnesota, County, and City staff met on site to assess the situation and close the parkway. Formal assessment by Barr Engineering begins.
- July 22, 2019 - The northbound lane of East River Parkway was opened to allow bus and vehicle traffic access based on preliminary assessment.
- August 9, 2019 - The southbound lane was opened, and parking removed from the east side of the parkway. Preliminary assessment of the slope shows east 28-feet of parkway safe for use.
- October 10, 2019 - Formal assessment delivered to MPRB staff.

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- November 2019 - Survey of east bank of Mississippi River from the No. 9 Bridge and East River Flats Park and a scan of the slope failure site are conducted.
- December 2019 - MPRB staff engages professional engineer to provide preliminary layout options and costs for restoration/stabilization of the slope failure site.
- January 2020 - MPRB and U of M propose an agreement to cooperatively plan and observe the slope failure site and areas of concern upstream and downstream of the site.

The U of M and the MPRB agree to:

- Share the costs of an aerial survey and scan of the east bank study area.
- Coordinate operations related to the slope, including traffic controls.
- Coordinate additional surveying and monitoring activity related to the slope.
- Share all data.
- Jointly consider engineering and mitigation measures.

The agreement (*Attachment A*) does not commit either party to pay for construction or other activity related to the slope.

MPRB legal counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement as to form and legality.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve an agreement between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota for a cooperative planning and slope observation effort related to the July 17, 2019 East River Parkway slope failure site.

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

Vision Theme 3:	Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.
Goal:	Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, and beauty.
Vision Theme 4:	A safe Place to play, recreate, contemplate, and celebrate.
Goal:	Parks are safe and welcoming by design.

HISTORY:

03/04/20	**Administration & Finance Committee**	**ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - Agreement (PDF)

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Prepared By: Tyler Pederson,, Design and Project Management
Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	02/07/2020 11:05 AM
Cliff Swenson	Completed	02/07/2020 4:10 PM
Michael Schroeder	Completed	02/07/2020 4:33 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	02/09/2020 3:44 PM
Al Bangoura	Completed	02/10/2020 4:23 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	03/18/2020 5:00 PM
Administration & Finance Committee	Pending	02/19/2020 5:40 PM
Administration & Finance Committee	Completed	03/04/2020 5:40 PM