Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2021-265

Resolution to Approve of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Metropolitan Council to Complete a Preservation Plan for Parkland Within the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan Area of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is authorized to contract with public and private entities in the performance of its duties;

Whereas, The MPRB is responsible for completion of the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan (Cedar-Isles Master Plan), which will establish a vision to guide the long-term preservation and improvement of Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, the Kenilworth Channel, Dean Parkway, and the surrounding parkland;

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council (the Council), a public corporation and political subdivision of the state of Minnesota, is constructing the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (SWLRT Project), an approximately 14.5-mile extension of the METRO Green Line which will operate through the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, Minnesota;

Whereas, The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the lead Federal agency to the SWLRT Project, is responsible for completing the Section 106 review to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties;

Whereas, FTA found that the SWLRT Project will have an adverse effect on the following historic properties owned in whole or in part by the MPRB: Grand Rounds Historic District (GRHD) and Kenilworth Channel, hereafter referred to collectively as the "Affected Properties;"

Whereas, one of the measures stipulated for mitigating the adverse effect on the Effected Properties requires The Council to deliver a preservation plan for the GRHD: Canal System, including adjacent parkland, extending from the north end of Bde Maka Ska to the east end of Cedar Lake, and including the entirety of the Lake of the Isles Park and Kenilworth Lagoon, that includes an overall vision for historic preservation of the Canal System, strategies to guide historic preservation efforts to achieve the overall vision, and objectives for implementing each strategy, hereafter referred to as the "Preservation Plan;"

Whereas, A portion of the Effected Properties are within the Cedar-Isles Master Plan boundary;

Whereas, To avoid a duplication of effort, the Council and MPRB have agreed that the MPRB, in coordination with the Council, shall develop the Preservation Plan as part of the Cedar-Isles

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Master Plan, and shall obtain Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MNSHPO) concurrence on the final Preservation Plan prior to the initiation of the SWLRT Project revenue service operations;

Whereas, MPRB is assuming the cost to prepare the Master Plan, including the Preservation Plan, and has the autonomous authority to draft and adopt the Master Plan, including the Preservation Plan;

Whereas, The Council's limited role as defined in the MOU is to include assisting the MPRB in drafting the Preservation Plan, and reviewing and commenting on the Preservation Plan, and thereafter, preparation of a Treatment Plan; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "Urban forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate," and "Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves a Memorandum of Understanding between Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Metropolitan Council to complete a Preservation Plan for parkland within the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan Area of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes 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.

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TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder,

DATE: August 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution to Approve of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Metropolitan Council to Complete a Preservation Plan for Parkland Within the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan Area of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

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BACKGROUND

This resolution considers the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Metropolitan Council (the Council) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to outline roles and expectations around a preservation plan for parkland that falls within the Cedar-Isles Master Plan boundaries. A preservation plan was a negotiated requirement by the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

MPRB has been in communication with the Council about the SWLRT since the early planning phases of the project. MPRB was aware of the Council's requirement for a Preservation Plan due to its involvement in the SWLRT project on a staff level. The MPRB and the Council discussed different collaboration and funding opportunities to ensure the Preservation Plan could be completed alongside the Master Plan process. Because MPRB felt it was imperative for the Cedar-Isles Master Plan process to remain autonomous from the SWLRT Project and the Council, principally to ensure community trust with the planning process, MPRB agreed to fully fund and complete the Preservation Plan as a part of the Cedar-Isles Master Plan Process. The Council has agreed to play an advisory role to ensure MPRB meets necessary FTA requirements.

About the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
The MOU *(Attachment A)* establishes clarity of roles between the Council and MPRB for the Preservation Plan for parkland that falls within the Cedar-Isles Master Plan boundary.

FUNDING/COST SUMMARY

The MOU outlines that MPRB is responsible for funding and managing the completion of the Preservation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

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Staff recommends approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Metropolitan Council to complete a Preservation Plan for parkland within the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan Area of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

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

Vision Theme 1: Urban forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate.

Goal: People and the environment benefit from the expansion and protection of natural resources.

Goal: Knowledgeable stewards and partners generously support the system's natural resources.

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

Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.

HISTORY:

07/21/21	**Administration & Finance Committee**	**ADOPTED**

Approved on a Roll Call Vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A - SWLRT MOU with Met Council (PDF)

Prepared By: Emma Pachuta,, Strategic Planning
Review:

Cindy Anderson	Completed	07/07/2021 8:25 PM
Adam Arvidson	Completed	07/07/2021 8:26 PM
Michael Schroeder	Completed	07/08/2021 3:56 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	07/12/2021 2:40 PM
Al Bangoura	Completed	07/13/2021 1:37 PM
Administration & Finance Committee	Completed	07/21/2021 5:50 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	08/04/2021 5:00 PM

MC Contract #20I090

Attachment: Attachment A - SWLRT MOU with Met Council (2021-265 : Approve MOU with the Met Council for Preservation Plan for Parkland

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL,
AND
THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD,
REGARDING
THE PREPARATION OF A PRESERVATION PLAN FOR
THE GRAND ROUNDS HISTORIC DISTRICT: CANAL SYSTEM,
MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between the Metropolitan Council ("Council"), a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board ("MPRB"), a public corporation, herein collectively herein collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party". This MOU pertains to the Council's Southwest Light Rail Transit ("SWLRT") Project, referred to hereafter as the "Project".

WHEREAS, the Council has authority under Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) § 473.399 and §§ 473.3993 to 473.3999 to plan, design, acquire, construct and equip light rail transit facilities in the seven-county metropolitan area; as defined in M.S. § 473.121(2); authority under M.S. § 473.405(4), and other applicable statutes, to engineer; construct, equip, and operate transit systems projects, including light rail transit, in the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Council is constructing the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (SWLRT Project"), an approximately 14.5-mile extension of the METRO Green Line which will operate through the cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Council has received grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and has received permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct the Project and, therefore, the undertaking is subject to the requirements of Section 306108 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 United States Code § 306108; hereinafter referred to as Section 106), and its implementing regulations, 36 Codified Federal Regulations [CFR] § 800; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800, FTA, as the lead Federal agency responsible for completing the Section 106 review for the Project, consulted with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), interested and affected Indian Tribes, other interested parties, including the MPRB, and the public to consider the effects of the Project on historic properties that are listed in and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on June 21, 2016 that documents the measures FTA agreed to implement as a condition of funding the Project to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties; and