



*A vibrant community where
everyone thrives.*

Physical Development Committee

Government Center – Conference Room 1

151 4th Street SE Rochester, MN 55904

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 1:00 PM

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MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Members Present:** Thein, Mueller, Rossman

Members Absent: None

Non Voting Attendees: Wright, Kiscaden, Senjem, Podulke-Smith

Chair Thein called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

2. APPROVE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Mueller moved; Rossman seconded Approve:

Motion: 3 to 0

AYES: Thein, Mueller, Rossman

NAYS: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve Minutes from June 4, 2024 Physical Development Committee

Mueller moved; Rossman seconded Approve:

Motion: 3 to 0

AYES: Thein, Mueller, Rossman

NAYS: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: None

4. DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Discuss proposed cannabis/tobacco rules for Olmsted County parks and Graham Park.

- County Board Retreat prompted conversations about cannabis use and sale within Olmsted County Parks and Graham Park in the wake of recent legislation legalizing recreational adult cannabis consumption.
- Requesting feedback on the most recent draft of the cannabis ordinance pertaining to cannabis use in OC parks.
- Violations of established park rules that are considered petty misdemeanor offenses are currently handled by an established process. There are typically recommended fines for offenders of these rules that go to the sheriff's office or court if these situations cannot be resolved by parks staff. The fines may vary depending on whether the incident goes to trial.
- State legislation states that you cannot use cannabis in a motor vehicle, and this would extend to motor homes and motorized recreational vehicles. This clarification would help explain to the public what is allowed in county parks and on county property; it would also assist parks staff when enforcing parks rules if the state language is included in the ordinance.
- There was discussion about possibly establishing designated areas for cannabis and tobacco use within OC parks and at Graham Park.
- These suggested changes will modify the ordinance passed in Fall of 2023 that overall bans the use of cannabis on Olmsted County property by allowing use of cannabis by adults 21+ inside non-motorized recreational vehicles.
- a.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the comparison of alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis use and how each of them are similar or different.
 - It would be significantly easier for parks staff to enforce the option of using cannabis and/or tobacco within non-motorized vehicles or in designated areas than explaining a blanket ban on these products within OC Parks.
 - There are existing ordinances within the parks regarding excessive noise, being a nuisance to others, 'quiet time' hours that allow staff to prevent disturbances from getting out of control.
 - Graham Park also has guidelines and rules for alcohol use and safety protocols such as welfare checks, verbal discussion and redirect, and use of Rochester Police Department when necessary.
 - There is concern about having designated spaces for smoking cannabis due to the public health nuisance that comes with the smell and second hand smoke.
 - It is important to note that medical cannabis with a prescription is exempt from local ordinances and laws. The proposed rules are specific to smoke and not edible/drinkable cannabis products.
 - General consensus is to ban smoking cannabis overall, limiting smoking to designated areas, and edible/drinkable cannabis products are allowed as they

do not have direct second-hand repercussions on the public in close proximity to the user.

Present Update of Olmsted County Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Project.

- Much of concept layout has been wrapped up, now going on to 30% design in July which involves initiating equipment procurement and pre-engineered metal building.
- October 2024 will bring construction contract bidding, with environmental permitting from September 2024 through September 2025.
- Groundbreaking is tentatively planned for March 2025 with construction running through December 2025.
- Critical items that have been accomplished thus far include addressing the cell tower near the site, building size has been increased by 50% to 45,000 s.f., the road network has been mapped out and the existing roads will stay in place, and determining material processing and equipment needed to process the materials.
- The final building layout includes a future area for organics processing, a public viewing area, and administrative space along with the processing area, tipping floor, storage, and loading/dumping area.
- Material will be fed into a size reducer/shredder and move along a conveyor to allow the machines to sort and extract materials. Materials that cannot be recycled will be fed into the pit at the Waste to Energy Facility.
- b. • There have been multiple site visits by consultants and engineers to check the air handling systems at OWEF, fire pump capacity, building setbacks, tipping floor laser scan, and underground electrical lines.
- Environmental resources staff will be moving out of their current location at the 2122 Campus Drive location into the administrative space at the MRF once the project is complete.
- The MRF will allow removal of combustible materials from municipal solid waste and processing of single-stream recyclables.
- Awaiting final grant agreement document and approval on the \$10M Minnesota Grant, also receiving approximately \$465k from The Recycling Partnership for various portions of the project such as equipment.
- Upcoming steps include permitting, operational policies, equipment and building procurement, staff planning, and Mayo Clinic partnerships.
- There is an item being heard at County Board later today, June 18, to select a contractor for the new cold storage building that will assist in storing equipment and materials for the MRF, and there are materials and equipment that will be fine to sit outside in the elements without damage while the MRF is under construction.
- There was a suggestion to build an educational playground made from recycled materials in the general vicinity of the MRF to assist in educating children on what happens to our trash and recyclable materials.

6. DIVISION UPDATES

Environmental Resources

- 50 people signed up for food scrap program, hoping for 150
- Illegal dumping has been a struggle at the compost site (brush and yard waste specifically)

Parks

- Legacy grant coordinators coming on Thursday 6/20 to close out the Oxbow Park Nature Center
- Rain impacting amphitheater

Facilities & Building Operations

- Climate action plan – installing 4 dual-head EV chargers at campus
- Awarded contract to install hydration stations (water bottle fillers and drinking fountains)
- Approval to install solar panels in Eyota and Government Center

Planning

- Request to initiate text amendment at county board 6/18 for zoning ordinance update regarding where cannabis can be grown, sold, distributed, etc. within Olmsted County according to the zoning ordinance

Public Works

- Award of CSAH 7 Box Culvert will be heard 6/18 at County Board
- Grant agreement for local bridge replacement funds coming in July
- Construction projects include CR107 bridge (complete), CR-3 box culvert, CR-5 and CR-25 has detour currently but will be open if rain subsides, CR-146 complete, CR-7 concrete repair and ground all complete

Property Records & Licensing

- Board of Appeals & Equalization is scheduled for June at 7 p.m.

Soil & Water Conservation District

- Groundwater protection soil health program continues
- Added enhancements to haying and grazing options
- Oats are growing at the soil health farm east of campus
- Groundwater & nitrates public meeting with Minnesota Department of Health was held in Stewartville

7. ADJOURN

Chair Thein adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

moved; seconded a motion to adjourn was made.:

Motion: 0 to 0

AYES: None

NAYS: None

RECUSE: None

ABSENT: None