**Parks Positions, LWVMpls - Consensus**

The LWVMpls Parks Committee recommends the following changes to the LWVMpls positions. The change to Position 10 acknowledges improvements in the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s responsiveness to the public, and presents the position in a positive rather than negative form. The proposed new Position 14 reflects concerns about how the public interest will be protected as new partnerships between public and non-public entities are developed. The revision of the Position in Brief is minor and reflects the change in tone in Position 10.

**Current Positions**

Position in Brief

Support of adequate financing, sound administrative and planning procedures for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation System, and procedures to increase board responsiveness to the public.

LWVMpls supports:

1. Adequate financing to improve recreation facilities and programming, parkway maintenance, land acquisition and reforestation. (1970)

2. The concept that no park lands should be taken for other purposes unless all feasible alternatives have been exhausted. (1970)

3. Adequate planning procedures so all community recreation opportunities are considered when planning new parks. (1970)

4. Joint school/park planning. (1970)

5. Compensatory measures (transportation, equipment, and paid coaches) to improve recreation in inner city parks. (1973)

6. Greater efforts to hire minority recreation staff including liberalizing civil service requirements. (1973)

7. Recreation programs for groups not adequately served. (1973)

8. The principle of charging fees if care is taken to ensure that no citizen is deprived of use of park facilities through lack of income. (1973)

9. Four-year terms for park commissioners. (1980)

10. The adoption of procedural changes by the Park Board to increase its responsiveness to the public.

a. Define duties of park commissioners more clearly. (1980)

b. Define and publicize procedures for citizen participation in decisions affecting the park and recreational system. (1980)

c. Provide publicity for neighborhood meetings when park changes are being suggested. (1980)

d. Improve communication with citizens and organizations. (1980)

e. Provide for citizen participation at Board meetings. (1980)

f. Change methods of funding and planning park projects to allow time for more citizen participation before plans are implemented. (1980)

g. Establish committees, including citizens, to carry out the abovementioned suggestions and improve relationships with the public. (1980)

11. Development of regional parks in the first-tier suburbs. (1985)

12. Encouraging the use of outlying regional parks through publicity, transportation and specialized programs and facilities. (1985)

13. The present composition of the Park Board (nine commissioners: six from districts and three at-large; no relationship with the Mayor's office) (2006)

LWVMpls opposes: a long-term goal of a regional park system with a single governance power. (2006)

**Proposed revisions**

Delete position number 10 and all of its parts. Substitute for it the following:

10. Assuring transparency and responsiveness to community concerns through timely communications about projects and board proposals; encouragement of citizen engagement through citizen committees and open meetings regarding park projects; provision for public input at board meetings; and easy access to records of meetings and other documents.

Add a new position number 14 as follows:

14. Requiring that public/private park development and/or management agreements are based on solid criteria that protect the public interest both in availability of use and financial risk.

Modify the **Positions in Brief** as follows:

* Support of adequate financing, sound administrative and planning procedures, and assurance of transparency and responsiveness to community concerns for the Minneapolis park and recreation system.

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**Consensus ballot**

**Unit\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Members present\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Shall the LWVMpls modify Parks Position 10 as proposed?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shall the Parks Position in Brief be modified to reflect the change in Position 10?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shall the LWVMpls adopt a new Parks Position 14 as proposed?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this ballot to the LWVMpls office, 2810 21st Ave. S, Suite 250, Minneapolis 55407