



RESOLUTION # 11-10

Saint Paul Port Authority Land Transfer Barge Terminal #2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Three parcels of Port Authority property were to be donated to the City, and the Port has asked the City to consider accepting alternative properties, to better match their business needs. The substitute donation will increase acreage from 2.7 acres to 16 acres at 4 sites. The parcels would position key aspects of the Great River Passage including trail connections, view corridors and physical access to the river.

Images of the properties and the Port Authority actions on this issue are attached as background.

STAFF COMMENTS:

In addition to securing 16 acres of parkland to advance the priorities identified in the Great River Passage plan, this action results in the best situation for the functional harbor operations and the future success of the “working river”. This action is supported by the Mayor’s Administration.

REQUEST OF COMMISSION:

It is recommended that the Commission approve the substituted donation. In discussion, the Commission may consider reinforcing to staff the sentiment in the final resolved, that the transfers be promptly pursued and not delayed any longer.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Key civic organizations (Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation, WSCO, Friends of the Mississippi) have gone on the record in support of this action.

The Friends of the Parks and Trails and resident Tom Diamond have followed this discussion, and have been specifically engaged by the City and Port in meetings to review the alternatives. They have not expressed support as yet and have suggested further alternatives that are not possible at this time from the Port’s perspective.

Letters are attached for review.

RESOLUTION #11-10
Port Authority Parkland Exchange – Barge Terminal #2

WHEREAS, as a stated condition of a variance granted by the Saint Paul City Council to the Saint Paul Port Authority “Port” (CF 08-1033), three parcels of Port property were to be donated to the City, and

WHEREAS, one of the properties is an approximately 2.7 acre site known as Barge Terminal #2, which is the location of Upper River Services “URS” operations, and their functional role as the Port Authority’s Harbor Operator, and

WHEREAS, after further consideration, the Port and URS have concluded that remaining at the location scheduled to be donated was in the best interest of river operations, and approached the City to explore potential alternatives to that donation, and

WHEREAS, as a substitute for the 2.7 acre Barge Terminal #2 property, the Port is now proposing that 8 parcels totaling 16 acres located at River Bend, North Port, South Port and Red Rock can be donated, and

WHEREAS, in addition to donating additional acreage, the parcels would position key aspects of the Great River Passage including trail connections, view corridors and physical access to the river plan, and

WHEREAS, there are no issues related to parkland replacement (no net loss) and related procedures as the parcel scheduled for donation had not been transferred as such, and

WHEREAS, the Port Board of Directors has taken action to authorize the substitution of the donated parcels, and the both the West Side Citizens Organization and the Friends of the Mississippi River have issued letters in support of the action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that substitution of donated properties being proposed by the Port be accepted and that staff take the actions necessary to make the conditions of the variance established in CF 08-1033 reflect these changes, and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recommends and encourages staff to take action to transfer all of the properties committed, without delay, at the earliest opportunity.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on July 13, 2011:

Approved:	Yeas	—
	Nays	—
	Absent:	—

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Attested to by:

Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission