

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, April 4, 2016

Committee Members Present: Commers, Dorfman, Elkins, Kramer, Letofsky, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Chávez, Cunningham, Munt

Committee Members Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2016 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS - none

INFORMATION

Planning Assistance Grant Program

Senior Planner Ryan Garcia presented the information item for discussion purposes. He provided the Committee the context and the forum to confirm that the criteria and approach for the program, as adopted in 2015, are in keeping with statutory guidance as well as the spirit and purpose of this regional grant program.

The question for discussion is how to distribute the additional \$500,000 the Council added to the Planning Assistance Grant Program as part of its 2016 budget action. A proposed action for the Committee's consideration will be presented at the next scheduled meeting on April 18, 2016.

To support local governments updating their decennial local comprehensive plans, the Council provides five types of assistance:

1. Direct staff assistance through the Sector Representative Program
2. Guidance, tools, and resources through the *Local Planning Handbook*
3. Mapping assistance through the Mapping Services Program and the online Mapping Tool
4. Comprehensive planning training through the PlanIt Training workshop series
5. Financial resources through the Planning Assistance Grant Program

Minnesota Statutes Section 473.867, subd. 2 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to establish a planning assistance fund to provide grants and loans to local units of government for the primary purpose of reviewing and amending local comprehensive plans, fiscal devices, and official controls, as required by the Metropolitan Land

Planning Act. The Council has provided grant funding in previous decennial review rounds to identified eligible communities to update local comprehensive plans.

Minn. Stat. 473.867, subd. 3 directs the Council to base its decision on making grants and loans on the recipient's demonstrated need and available financial resources. In addition, because of limited funds available for the Planning Assistance Grant Program, the Council establishes eligibility to apply for and receive planning grants. Specifically, the Council identifies eligibility criteria to target communities most in need of financial assistance to complete their local plans.

The Community Development Committee had questions regarding the changes in the Net Tax capacity, the adopted eligibility criteria, how it's calculated, program options, parameters and the burden placed on small cities. A recommended option will be determined at the next Community Development Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary