

Business Item 2020-326

Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment*

December 7, 2020

Community Development Committee



Today's Agenda

- Public Comment Process: Lessons Learned
- Policy Plan: What Changed
- Recommendation



Boat approaches dock and boat landing at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Draft Amendment Public Comment Timeline

Invite

August - September

Engage

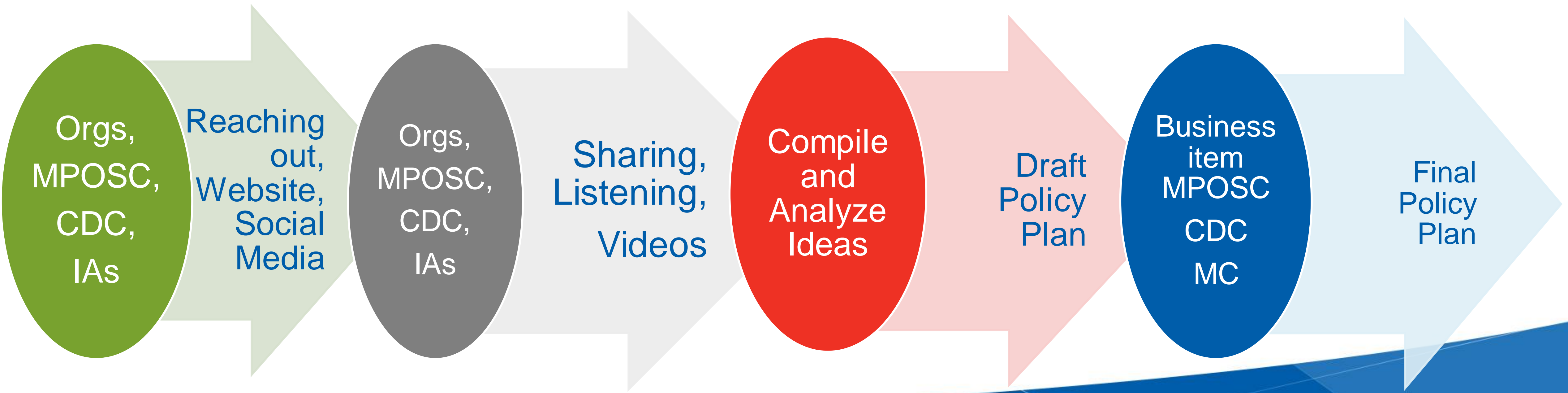
September - October

Refine

November

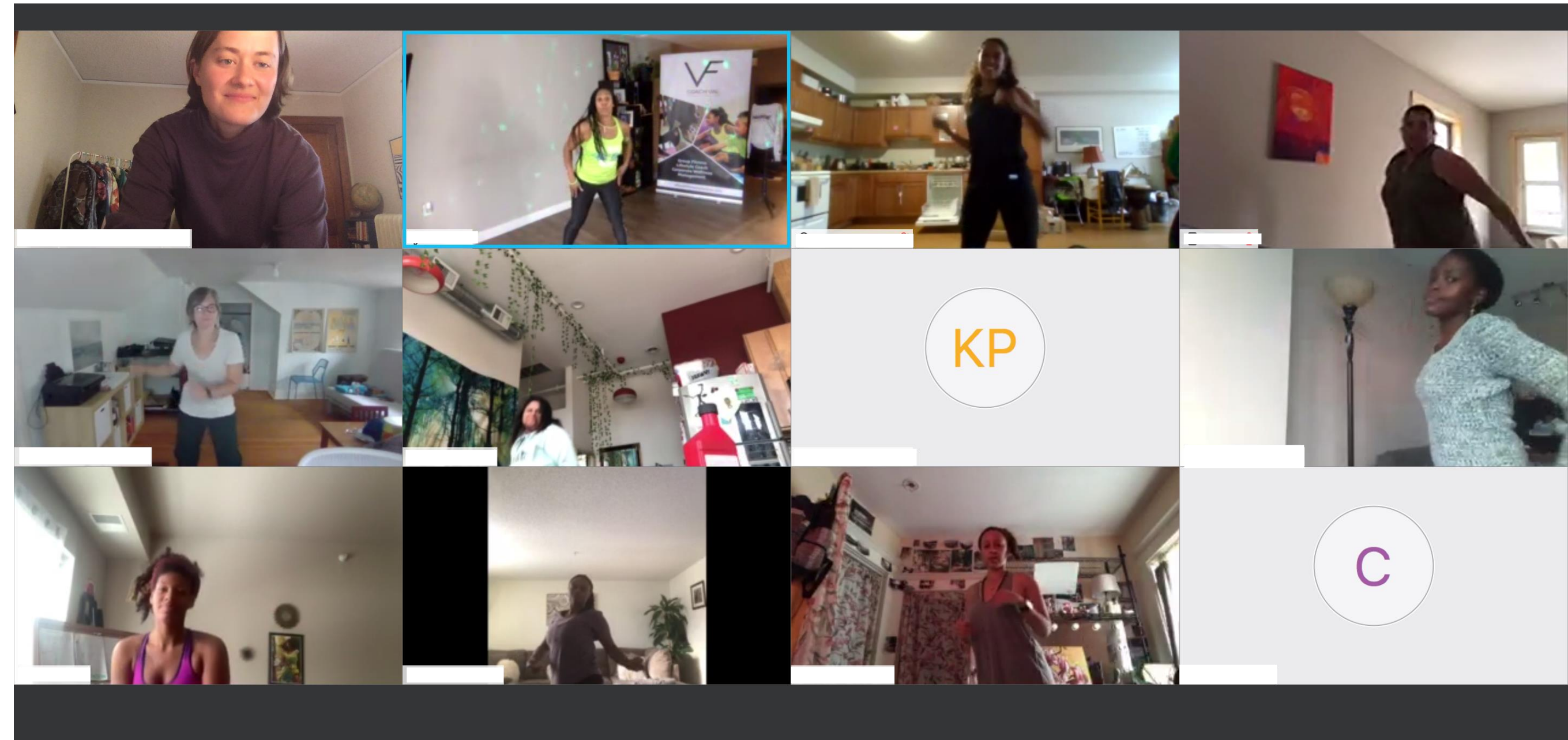
Approvals

December



Public Comment Process: Lesson Learned

- “Traditional” engagement approaches reach dominant culture audiences well!
- Reaching new audiences takes time, especially working with historically underserved audiences.
- If a relationship with an audience is cultivated only when the Council needs something, it will not be successful.



Zumba Class with Amanda, Ellie, and the Cycle Sisters

Public Comment Summary

- **Systems Additions:** Overwhelming support for the proposed 26 system additions.
 - Some concerns regarding the need to take care of the existing system before adding more.
- **Natural Resource Conservation:** Comments supporting prioritizing natural resource conservation over recreational use.
 - For example, proposal to change acreage threshold for designating park reserves.
- **Regional Trails:** Significant interest in regional trails and future of the trail system;
- **Water Trails:** Support for water trails, as well as some concerns.



Girl helps with bee survey during a joint Saint Paul Parks & Recreation/U of M program.

Policy Plan Amendment: Significant Changes



Man on trail at Elm Creek Regional Park Reserve.

26 System Additions or Expansions

- Four boundary adjustments
- Five search areas
 - Three regional parks,
 - One park reserve
 - One special recreation feature search areas, bridging facility
- 17 regional trail search corridors

Policy Refinements

Boundary Adjustments:

- Description of minor boundary adjustment criteria and process

Bridging Facilities:

- Further defines the goal and requirements for Bridging Facilities



Man on park bench with cell phone near Cedar Lake.

Policy Refinements



Swallowtail butterfly on joe pye weed.

Park and Trail Master Plan Requirements:

- Master plan boundaries must include an administrative and management boundary for known and potential inholdings.

Equity Analysis Requirement:

- Council approved requirement centering equity in master plan processes.

Policy Refinements

- **Cost to Complete System:** Refined methodology that led to no change in estimated \$2.1 billion total cost.
- **Chapter 9 Work Plan:** Proposes the Cultural Historical Study to incorporate land acknowledgement.



Teens play soccer at Battle Creek - Indian Mounds Regional Park in St. Paul and Maplewood.

Recommended Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Accept the Public Comment Summary Report on the draft amendment to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*; and
2. Adopt the revised final *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment*.

Thank you

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