

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, May 17, 2021

Committee Members Present: Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Vento, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Lindstrom, Muse

Committee Members Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

[Click here to view the May 17, 2021 Community Development Committee meeting video.](#)

Council Members requested "Project Based Voucher Program Offer and Award Discussion" an information item from a previous Community Development Committee meeting be brought to the Committee at the next meeting June 7th.

BUSINESS

2021-103 Square Lake Special Recreation Feature Master Plan, Washington County

Planning Analyst Colin Kelly presented the business item to the Community Development Committee. It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Washington County's Square Lake Special Recreation Feature Master Plan.

Motion carried.

Connor Schaefer, Washington County Parks Planner, was present and responded to questions.

Council Members inquired how Washington County could make scuba diving more accessible and affordable to all users at Square Lake. Schaefer responded that the County is considering options and opportunities to offer demonstrations and connect interested visitors to local organizations who offer scuba certifications, for example. Schaefer added that the acquisition of the Golden Acres property immediately south of the existing park would allow for a dedicated scuba diving staging area.

2021-116 City of Orono - Orono Crossings Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review No. 22055-6

Senior Planner Jerome Benner presented the business item to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City of Orono to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Revise the City's forecasts and sewer-serviced forecasts upward in 2020 and 2030 as shown in Tables 1 and 2 in the Review Record.
3. Revise the affordable housing need allocation for the City to 85 units.
4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Forecasts, Transit, and Wastewater.

Motion carried.

Council Members requested clarification on the project's impact to the City's affordable housing goal as it relates to the need to reguide the site and what prompted the amendment. Mr. Benner briefly explained that the reguiding of the site does reduce the amount of high-density land available to the City for affordable housing and that the City's affordable housing need number was revised due to the forecast revision. Staff added that the change in land use was most likely initiated so that the development could fit the dynamics of the site.

INFORMATION

1. 2022 Community Development Budget Initial Discussion

MTS Finance Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented the information item to the Community Development Committee.

The preliminary 2022 Community Development Division budget is currently under development. This discussion was intended to provide Committee members a refresher on the Community Development Division budget and how the budget was presented in 2021. Staff discussed the overall 2022 budget timeline, requested Council Member feedback for 2022 budget conversations, and identify next steps for continued discussion and decision-making.

This operating budget discussion will be followed by a more detailed preliminary operating budget conversation at the June 21 Community Development Committee. The June 21 discussion will detail the budget, including topics identified by Council members at the May 17 committee meeting.

Council Members appreciated the presentation of the information and how feedback was incorporated. Additional information was requested for future discussions; the impact of COVID-19 compared to the 2008 economic downturn, invitations to partners; developers and non-profits. trends, federal and state processes.

Council Members inquired to equity action by looking at MCUB contracts, and disparities, wondering if \$2M is enough.

Ms. Aagesen-Huebner indicated the budget includes consulting services and staff is working with Procurement.

2. Regional Parks System Historical-Cultural Study – Introduction

Planner Tracey Kinney, Senior Outreach Coordinator Amanda Lovelee, and Senior Planner Jessica Lee presented the information item to the Community Development Committee.

The 2020 Amendment of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP) commits the Council to conduct a Regional Parks System Historical-Cultural Study

- “Describe and document the impacts that inequitable policies have had on the development of the Regional Parks System, and
- Explore the development of a land acknowledgement that recognizes and respects Indigenous residents and the histories of the land where our regional parks and trails are located.”

The Study grew out of advice heard from the [Public Comment Report](#) of the RPPP Amendment process, as well as, from advice from Metropolitan Council (Council) Members, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissioners (MPOSC), and regional park implementing agencies (implementing agencies) through the development and implementation of the Equity Analysis Requirement for parks and trails master plans (RPPP Chapter 5 Planning and Policy, Strategy 2 Master Plan Requirements, pages 78, 81-82).

Council policy makers, implementing agencies, and regional organizations will continue to shape the study through a multi-year process. In 2021 a project scoping document and engagement plan will be developed. These guiding materials will form the basis to hire a consultant to guide this work in 2022. Council staff will return to Council policy makers in the fall of 2021 to discuss the draft scoping document and in early 2022 to discuss the final scoping document.

At this initial stage of the study, the discussion with Council policy makers centers on the study’s guidance. This guidance will form the foundation for the scoping document, engagement plan, and the study moving forward.

The Council Members expressed their appreciation for this presentation and the importance of understanding and valuing the indigenous history, culture, expertise, and rites of passage. Council members discussed the gaps in access to the parks, possible incentives, and the need for transit near Regional Parks. Collaboration is also needed within communities and park implementing agencies for programming, and to provide a welcoming environment where all feel valued.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary