

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, May 3, 2021

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

Committee Members Absent: 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 3, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

[click here to view the May 3, 2021 Community Development Committee](#)

BUSINESS

2021-109 Amendment to the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC) Bylaws
Livable Communities Manager Tara Beard and LCAC Chair White Bear Lake Mayor Jo Emerson presented the Business Item to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council approve the proposed amendments of the Livable Communities Advisory Committee bylaws amend the LCAC bylaws as proposed by staff with the exception of not eliminating language about addressing equitable development where it had been stricken along with the Community-based Organization expertise category, but keeping it as a description of the new Community Engagement expertise category.

Motion carried.

Council Members asked if the Recording Secretary changes to the bylaws would create a staffing challenge with our current administrative capacity. Ms. Beard responded that LCAC was different from other committees in that it meets frequently over a short period of time, rather than monthly or quarterly. Manager Beard noted that with LCAC work beginning in late fall, there was time to plan for administrative staff time for LCAC. Director Barajas added that no new staff would be needed to meet the need for an LCAC Recording Secretary.

Council Members suggested revising the amended bylaws to retain a description of the new Community Engagement expertise category that had been stricken along with the Community-based Organization expertise category. The description will ensure that community engagement experts would have specific expertise in equitable outreach outcomes.

Council Members questioned if the amended bylaws would create adequate small town and rural development expertise on the committee. Ms. Beard

responded that Article II.B calls for development expertise from urban communities to suburbs and small towns. Council Members expressed the desire for more specificity in the requirement to ensure diversity of developer expertise across community types.

Mayor Emerson shared that the existing LCAC members care very much about equitable outcomes and equitable representation on the committee. She noted that the application process is arduous and can be a barrier to smaller community participation in the program.

Council Members encouraged the committee members to assist with recruitment for the committee. Council Member Atlas-Ingebretson commented that membership requirements in the bylaws ensure committee diversity lasts beyond the current administration.

Council Members questioned why “first-generation immigrants” were specifically called out in the examples of groups that are traditionally not included in the development process. Ms. Beard explained the intention was to capture particularly dense populations of first-generation immigrants in parts of the region for a variety of examples of life experiences.

Council Members asked why the two-term limit did not prohibit non-consecutive terms beyond the initial two. Ms. Beard responded that the attempt is to encourage healthy turnover without creating a situation where valuable past members couldn’t serve again in situations where recruitment was not as successful as intended.

2021-102 City of Greenfield Agricultural Preserves Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 21991-2

Planning Analyst, Freya Thamman presented the Business Item to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Lee seconded by Johnson, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize the City of Greenfield to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Find that the amendment does not change the City’s forecasts.
3. Strongly encourage the City to support the purpose and intent of the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program, to protect locally important agricultural areas, support existing agricultural uses as primary long-term land uses in the comprehensive plan in order to manage growth in a manner that protects farmland and the regional agricultural economy.
4. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for land use.

Motion carried.

The City’s consulting planner, Brad Scheib, was in the audience to answer questions from the City’s perspective.

Council Members asked about the expiration process for the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program as well as currently enrolled properties. Mr. Scheib provided responses about specific parcels within the Program and the City’s reasoning behind the amendment. Council members expressed concern about impacts to property owners that were not in favor of the City’s proposal.

Council Members asked about the Council’s role in reviewing proposed amendments that do not represent system impacts. Ms. Thamman explained the statutory authorities.

Council Members inquired about how enrollment and re-enrollment works for the Program. Ms. Thamman explained the process and how it relates to the comprehensive plan amendment process.

Mr. Scheib described the City's outreach with property owners and discussed the local concerns related to impacts to the protection from special assessments provided by enrollment in the Program. He explained that the City intends to evaluate other approaches to preserve agricultural uses during the eight-year expiration period as well as explore other tools and mechanisms to preserve the availability of agricultural lands in the City.

Council Member Atlas-Ingebretson abstained from voting.

INFORMATION

1. none

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary