

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: May 6, 2024

Topic

American Indian Advisory Council Update

District(s), Member(s):	ALL
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.175
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Allison Waukau, Tribal Liaison & Native Relations Coordinator (651) 377-0090 Angela R. Torres, Senior Manager, Local Planning Assistance (651) 602-1566
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Background

To implement a community-centered engagement approach, to initiate co-creation of a regional land acknowledgement with the region's American Indian population, and to acknowledge the historic harm that indigenous people in this region have survived, the Council established an American Indian Advisory Council as part of development of *Imagine 2050*. Based on immediate feedback, the land acknowledgement transformed into a land, water, and people acknowledgment and commitments to act by the Met Council.

The Advisory Council began meeting in March 2024 and will continue to convene through July 2024. Highly respected and influential members of the American Indian community in this region are serving on the Advisory Council including Dakota, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Lakota, as well as a broad spectrum of community elders, artists, advocates, and youth representatives.

At the Community Development Committee meeting on May 6, 2024, the Committee will receive an update on the progress of the American Indian Advisory Council. Staff will present summaries of the first three meetings and inform the Committee about the discussions underway on recommendations regarding organizational change, ways to support the urban Indian communities, and concerns with the Council's historic and ongoing harm to the community.

In the first three meetings, the Advisory Council agendas covered experiences with land acknowledgements, the role and responsibilities of the Met Council, and the regional parks and trail system. Future meetings will cover topics around regional water policy including the wastewater system, environmental justice, regional transportation system and transit operations, regional housing policy, and organizational change. Staff will continue to bring periodic updates of the Advisory Council work to the Regional Development Guide Council member Work Group and the Community Development Committee prior to a planned Committee of the Whole presentation in August.