

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: April 15, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Robert Lilligren, D7
- Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D11
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2

- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14

- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Wulff, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

1. **2024-89** Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Stu-Mac), Washington County (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

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

1. Approve a grant of up to \$406,722 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Washington County to acquire approximately 11 acres located at 9826 East Point Douglas Road South in Cottage Grove, MN, for the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried.

2. **2024-90** Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Barbarawi), Scott County (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

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

1. Approve a grant of up to \$680,486 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Scott County to acquire approximately 41 acres located at 24236 Union Trail in Belle Plain, MN, for the Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions or discussion as part of its consent agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2024-107** Approval of the 2024 Public Housing Agency Plan Modification (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)

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

1. Approve the 2024 Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan Modification as described in this report.

2. Direct staff to submit the final PHA Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without any questions.

2. **2024-91** Regional Parks and Trails System Competitive Equity Grant Program Funding Recommendations (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Lindstrom that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve funding 22 projects totaling up to \$2,055,500 for the Regional Parks and Trails System 2024 Equity Grant Program, as shown in Table 1 of this report.

2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements and associated amendments on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried

Council Members asked which two agencies didn't apply this time. Lee responded that the City of Bloomington and Dakota County didn't apply due to staffing capacity. Chair Robert Lilligren asked how the feedback from the review committee will be used next time. Lee responded that it will be incorporated into the next Notice of Funding Availability.

Council Members asked why many of the current projects have been extended. Lee responded that partly it was due to timing, the pandemic, construction delays, and the time and effort to get new programs started.

3. **2024-104** Amend Project Summary of The 2843 Building LCDA Development Grant (SG-18079) (Sam Johnson 651-602-1757)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter that the Community Development Committee amend The 2843 Building (SG-18079) Livable Communities Demonstration Account Development grant project summary (Attachment B) to update the project overview.

Motion carried

Council Members inquired about the changes in the project. Sam Johnson explained the project scope was reduced due to the Micro Brewery's exceeding production it is no longer a micro business and needed another space. Council Members also asked if this change affected the scoring. Hannah Gary explained scoring on readiness is not used because it was not aligned with equity development.

Information

1. Draft Land Use Policies and Actions for Objective 4 (natural systems), Objective 7 (climate



change) (Eric Wojchik 651-602-1330; Angela R. Torres 651-602-1566)

The Committee will review land use policies and actions drafted for Imagine 2050, for two objectives:

Objective 4: Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.

Objective 7: Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

Council Members discussed the vision objectives for natural corridors and asked if plans included re-establishing corridors or existing corridors. Staff responded both, some existing corridors need restoration to be recognized. Council Members acknowledged the importance of natural resources and habitat corridors. Staff explained state requirements for critical areas including Federal funding programs and criteria. And the importance of a holistic fit for purpose (compact development) approach.

2. 2024 Community Development Committee Work Plan (Lisa Barajas 651-602-1895)

The Work Plan is divided between Regular Business, 2024 Initiatives, Information and Regular Reports, and Invited Speakers. In addition to the 2024 Initiatives section, other initiatives or special projects for 2024 are listed under work unit headings and with an asterisk (*), particularly where that initiative is work unit specific.

Estimated dates will be added as staff finalize the Work Plan for the Committee's adoption at an upcoming meeting in February.

Regular Business

Livable Communities

Livable Communities Act Annual Fund Distribution Plan Recommendations for Livable Communities Act grants

Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)

Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)

Affordable Homeownership Program

Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)

LCDA TOD Pre-development grants

LCDA/TBRA TOD Development and Cleanup

- Livable Communities Act grant amendments, extensions – as needed
- LCA program evaluation and alignment with Imagine 2050*

Local Planning Assistance

- Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments and remaining 2040 comprehensive plans
- Annual report on Comprehensive Plan Amendment Trends
- Redevelopment Monitoring

Metro HRA

- Public Housing Agency Plan including Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan Set Public Hearing date
- Public Hearing
- Approval
-
- Project Based Vouchers
- Update Utility Allowance Schedule

- Annual Payment Standards / Small Area Fair Market Rents Information report on Small Area Fair Market Rents
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- Exploration of Section 8 Homeownership Program*
- Residential preferences of housing choice voucher program participants*
- Statewide Rent Assistance Program*
- Homework Starts with Home (suburban Hennepin County)
- Metropolitan Housing Opportunities Program Conversion
- Family Affordable Housing Program Capital improvement plan
- Sale and replacement of units
- Acquisition criteria for the program
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Regional Parks

- Regional Park and Trail Master Plan reviews – ongoing
- Regional Park and Trail grant reviews – ongoing
- Regional Parks Equity Grant Program - 2024 solicitation and award
- Regional Parks Historical-Cultural Study*
- Regional Parks Operations and Maintenance Allocations
- Annual report on administrative review of parks long range plan amendments*

Community Development Budget & Finance

- Budget amendments, as needed, generally quarterly
- 2025 Budget Initial discussion
- 2025 Community Development Division annual operating budget review
- 2025 Community Development Division annual capital budget

2024 Initiatives

- CDC-related components of Imagine 2050

Land use policy discussions

Regional parks policy discussions

Housing policy discussions

2050 Forecast development – regional and local

Art + Policy, feedback received from engagement

Regionally significant ecological areas

- Implementation of CDC-related components of the Climate Action Work Plan
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan development

Information and Regular Reports

- Agricultural Preserves Report
- Affordable Housing Production Report
- Annual Building Permits
- Data from the American Community Survey
- Fiscal Disparities Report
- Land Use Advisory Committee
- Plat Monitoring Program Report
- Population Estimates



- Regional Parks Use Estimates
- Ongoing research

Invited Speaker/Panel Presentations

Upon suggestion/request

Council Members provided feedback on the work plan suggesting quarterly status updates on items, funding for small communities to help support completion of plans, and appreciate engagement/outreach plans.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Community Development Committee meeting of April 15, 2024.

Council Contact:

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