



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

Land, Water, and People Commitments and the American Indian Advisory Council

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Council value and Regional goal



Our region is equitable and inclusive.

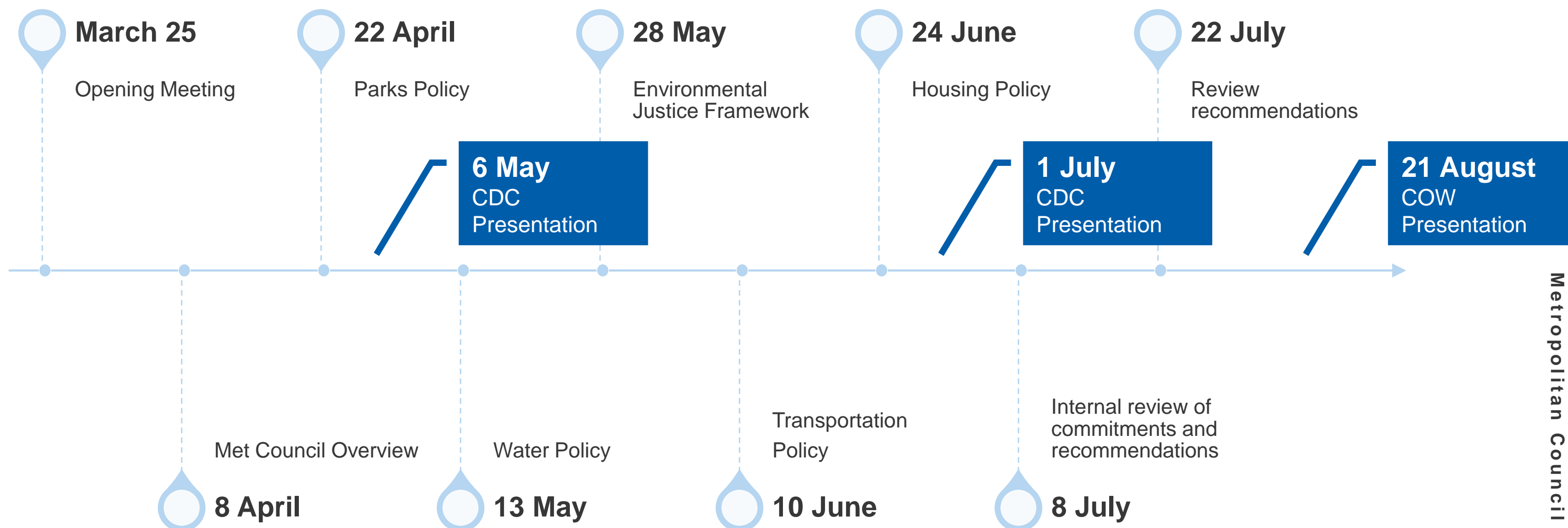
Racial inequities and injustices experienced by historically marginalized communities have been eliminated; and every person feels welcome, included, and empowered.

*~ Final language endorsed
January 2024*

Timeline of Advisory Council meetings



Timeline of Updates to Council



Reflections from May 13 Meeting

Water Policy

- Water policy is siloed among agencies, making systems-level change difficult.
- Existing funding sources and requirements further retrench silos and prevent change.
- Enshrining the rights of water – aligns with Indigenous approach to water

Recommended Actions

- Actively advocate for structural changes needed to institutionalize new approaches to water across sector.
 - Ground new approaches in understanding water as a relative.
- Explore reclaiming the Dakota names for water bodies in the region.
- Ensure Indigenous people are at policy-making and decision-making tables.



Reflections from May 28 Meeting

Environmental Justice

- Looking to the future is a priority. There are constantly new projects that can create new injustices.
- Metrics and data around outcomes will help make the work clearer to community members.
 - It will also support relationships of accountability for the Council.
- Recognition of genocide should shape policy perspectives.

Recommended Actions

- Integrate environmental justice work through Council with support from leadership.
- Recognize past harms through language with systemic framing.
- Increase public knowledge of environmental injustices faced by Indigenous communities.
- Engage deeply with Indigenous communities on and off reservations.
- Create data that is accessible to and useful for communities.



Reflections from June 10 Meeting

Transportation

- Tribal engagement varies significantly across jurisdictions. Tribal liaison approach has worked well.
- Tribal consultation on big projects has increased and improved.
- Creating a sense of place through art and language at transit stops limits vandalism and supports feelings of safety and inclusion.
- The Twin Cities are a hub for Indigenous culture. How can the transportation system support cultural resources?

Recommended Actions

- Improve tribal consultation policy and increase consistency of its implementation.
- Guide cities and counties on best practices for tribal engagement when they do transportation projects.
- Engage community early in station remodel projects.
- Provide funding to tribes to do their own site analysis.
- Create a permanent tribal relations body with representatives from all counties to ensure proper consultation and engagement.



Reflections from June 24 Meeting

Housing

- Homelessness should not exist in the Indigenous community living on their homelands.
 - High homeless rates reflect systemic injustices and generational trauma from genocide and displacement.
- Being able to live near centers of community life is especially important.
- Housing services should be provided by Indigenous organizations that know the community.

Recommended Actions

- Explore options to update the housing voucher selection process to recognize populations disproportionately experiencing homelessness.
- Explore ways to support and fund to Indigenous organizations.
 - Examine grant requirements to reduce barriers.
- Ensure ongoing engagement with Indigenous community that holds Met Council accountable for action.



Ongoing Internal Conversations



- Funding for specific areas where Indigenous communities and perspectives should be a priority (i.e. regional parks).
- Additional staffing needs to support Indigenous and tribal engagement.
- Structural agreements (i.e. MOU) to support American Indian organizations.
- Integration of preliminary regional policy recommendations



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