

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: July 1, 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 commitments of the Met Council.

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.

The Advisory Council began meeting in March 2024 and plans to convene through July 22, 2024. The Advisory Council recommendations will be presented at the August 21st Committee of the Whole meeting for consideration by the Met Council members.

Summary

On [May 6, 2024](#), the Community Development Committee heard an update on the work with the American Indian Advisory Council. On July 1, 2024, the Committee will receive a second update on the progress of the Advisory Council. Staff will present summaries of the subsequent four meetings and inform the Committee about the discussions underway on recommendations development.

In the four meetings since the May update, the Advisory Council agendas covered conversations on the roles and responsibilities of the Met Council in relationship to water policy, transportation policy, housing policy, and environmental justice. Two planned meetings in July will be spent reviewing recommendations and on discussions with Regional Administrator Ryan O'Connor and Chair Charlie Zelle on organizational change and the Met Council's commitment to action.

Staff will continue to bring periodic updates of the Advisory Council work to the RDG Council member Work Group and the Community Development Committee as needed until the planned Committee of the Whole meeting on August 21st.