

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: January 6, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | | |

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Carter to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent

- 2025-1: 2025 Annual Public Housing Agency Plan Approval (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)
It was moved by Carter seconded by Vento that the Metropolitan Council:
 - Approve the 2025 Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan.
 - Direct staff to submit the 2025 Annual 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 questions or discussion as part of its consent agenda.

Information

- Imagine 2050 Land Use Policy: Suburban Edge Supplemental Information (Lisa Barajas 651-602-1898) *postponed from December 16 meeting*

On [December 2, 2024](#), the Community Development Committee (CDC) reviewed the [public comments on land use policy](#). A specific point of discussion is the Suburban Edge minimum density expectation currently proposed in the draft Imagine 2050 at 4 units per

acre. The expectation in Thrive was 3-5 units per acre for similarly designated communities. The Committee will continue the discussion at the December 16th CDC meeting. To inform the discussion, additional information specific to the Suburban Edge communities is provided in this memo.

Local governments currently designated as Suburban Edge in Imagine 2050 include: Thrive Designation: Suburban (7)		Thrive Designation: Suburban Edge (8)		Thrive Designation: Emerging Suburban Edge (25)	
Deephaven*	Blaine	Andover	Lake Elmo		
Greenwood*	Chaska	Carver	Lino Lakes		
Loretto*	Cottage Grove	Centerville	Medina		
Medicine Lake*	Inver Grove Heights	Chanhassen	Minnetrissa		
Mnetonka Beach*	Lakeville	Columbus	North Oaks		
St. Bonifacius*	Maple Grove	Corcoran	Orono		
Woodland*	Shakopee	Credit River	Prior Lake		
Woodbury	Dayton	Ramsey			
Empire		Rogers			
Farmington		Rosemount			
Forest Lake		Victoria			
Hugo		Waconia			
Independence					

Community Development Committee members and guest Council Member Cedarberg discussed the density increase and impacts. Council Member Morales submitted comments via Council Member Johnson, see attachment at end of minutes.

2. Community Tree Planting Grant Program Draft Notice of Funding Availability (Gillian Greenberg 651-602-1726)

In the 2024 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Council to establish a community tree planting grant program. This direction included language on the purpose of and priorities for the program as well as an appropriation of \$2.5 million for the Council to be used by June 2026. This grant program was brought to the Community Development Committee’s November 4, 2024, Committee meeting for a discussion on priorities and long-term planning for the program. Staff took that feedback to draft a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The purpose of this information item is to present the draft NOFA for the Committee’s review and feedback.

The purpose of this program is to support the maintenance and expansion of the tree canopy in the region. The statute language specifically outlines three purposes:

1. Removing and planting shade trees on public land to provide environmental benefits
2. Replacing trees lost to forest pests, disease, or storms
3. Establishing a more diverse community forest better able to withstand disease and forest pests

The statute language also outlined two priorities for the grant program:

- Projects removing and replacing ash trees that pose significant public safety concerns



- Projects located in census block groups with a supplemental demographic index score in the 70th percentile or higher within the state

Council Members and staff discussed heat indexes, edibility, scoring factors, priorities, and maintenance of plantings.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:00 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 January 6, 2025.

Council Contact:

Michele Wenner, Recording Secretary
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651-602-1456



Good Afternoon Council Members,

I want to begin by apologizing for not being able to attend in person today. However, I have entrusted a colleague to speak on my behalf regarding the pressing issue of density requirements.

I would like to underscore some critical data points that demand your attention:

Of the 131 cities and townships we partner with, only 29% submitted public comments, amounting to 53 cities/townships responding.

Among those who submitted feedback, 39% expressed concerns specifically about increasing suburban edge density.

We cannot dismiss the reality that 71% of cities and townships chose not to submit comments. This lack of participation should not be mistaken as implicit agreement with the proposed changes. Instead, it reflects deeper issues, including insufficient resources, lack of time, or even an unawareness of the opportunity to provide feedback.

It is just as flawed to assume that “no comment” equates to agreement as it is to assume it reflects opposition. By this logic, if silence were to signify concerns, it would mean that 91% of suburban edge cities and townships could be uneasy about these density changes.

The numbers speak for themselves. Ignoring the barriers that prevent adequate participation and oversimplifying the feedback risks alienating our partners and undermining trust. It is essential that we address these concerns transparently and thoughtfully rather than making assumptions based on incomplete data.

I urge the council members to please review the suburban edge density numbers with these realities in mind and to consider adjustments that truly reflect the needs and concerns of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,