

# Minutes

## Community Development Committee



**Meeting date:** September 15, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

### Members present:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6             | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Toni Carter, D14 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13                   | <input type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8              |  |  |

### Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

### 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.

### Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Carter.

### Agenda approved

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

### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

### Consent business

1. 2025-222 City of Maplewood 1300 McKnight Road North Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 22007-9 (Patrick Boylan 651-602-1438)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for water

supply.

2. 2025-230 City of Mendota Heights Business and Industrial Park Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 22395-2 (Patrick Boylan 651-602-1438)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Find that the amendment changes the City's forecasts as described in Table 1 of the Review Record.

3. 2025-231 City of Bayport Bayhaven Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 22164-3 (Emma Dvorak 651-602-1399)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1. Authorize the City of Bayport to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2. Revise the Thrive MSP 2040 and Imagine 2050 community designations for the amendment site from Rural Residential to Suburban as shown in Figure 2a in the Review Record.
3. Advise the City:
  - a. The Council expects the City to continue coordination with the developer and Washington County, to ensure that the planned Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail is accommodated as a part of this development.
  - b. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Regional Parks and Trails, Transportation, Land Use, and Water Resources.

4. 2025-232 2026 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Plan Approval (Stephanie Paulson 651-602-1584)

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

1. Approve the 2026 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Plan, including changes to the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan as described in this report and attachments.
2. Authorize the Metropolitan Council Chair to execute the required certifications.
3. Direct staff to submit the final PHA Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

5. 2025-233 Board Resolution - Bring It Home Statewide Rental Assistance Program (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council

adopt Resolution Number 2025-21 for the Bring It Home Rental Assistance Program:

Authorizing acceptance of the grant award of \$30,914,448 from Minnesota Housing; and



Authorizing the Executive Director, Community Development, to negotiate and execute the Contract Grant Agreement and other documents required by Minnesota Housing.

**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. 2025-220 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment: Modernizing Mapping Project (Tracey Kinney 651-602-1029; Kevin Phan 651-602-1333)
  1. Amend Section 2, System Plan, of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan to designate the Regional Parks and Trails Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset as the Met Council's primary reference for regional park and trail boundaries, and to align the boundaries described in the System Plan with those delineated in the GIS dataset.
  2. Require Park Implementing Agencies to reflect the updated boundaries in the Regional Parks and Trails Dataset and their park and trail long-range plans. If any outstanding, substantial inconsistencies exist between Agency plans and the Council's System Plan, then Agencies should submit an amendment request to the Council by December 31, 2026.
  3. Authorize Council Parks Staff to administratively review these long-standing, regional park and trail long-range plan amendment requests that resulted from the adoption of the GIS dataset boundaries.

The proposed actions on the report were not correct and amended the proposed actions.

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

1. Release the draft amendment to the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan for public comment.
2. Authorize a public comment period from September 24, 2025, to November 17, 2025.
3. Conduct a public hearing at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2024, at the regularly scheduled Metropolitan Council meeting.

**Motion carried.**

Council Member Chamblis stated that the GIS will be useful for clarifying regional park and trail boundaries for implementing agencies. She asked what would happen if agencies did not submit an amendment request by the December 31, 2026 deadline. Kinney stated that all the implementing agencies have been well informed of this process and are currently preparing amendment materials in anticipation of this amendment process. However, if an agency misses this amendment deadline, then they would be able to pursue a full or focused long-range plan amendment on their own schedule. Council staff is working closely with implementing agency staff and wholly expect them to take advantage of this opportunity. This proposal recognizes the high cost of typical long-range plan amendments and seeks to provide an amendment process that helps correct longstanding errors and minimizes the administrative burden on implementing agencies.

Council Member Lindstrom asked if the public could view the GIS data. Phan stated that the GIS data is available to the public on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

Chair Carter raised the question that the business item was missing important details regarding the release of the draft amendment, authorization of the public comment period, and setting the date for the public hearing. In response, Community Development Executive Director Lisa Barajas

recommended a different slate of proposed actions, acknowledging that the original report had actions that would come later in the process after the public comment period. The above actions included in this Committee Report reflect this change.

2. 2025-235 Livable Communities Act 2026-2027 Fund Distribution Plan (Emily Seddon 651-602-1023; Hannah Gary 651-602-1633)

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Lindstrom that the Metropolitan Council

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Livable Communities Act program design presented in Attachment 1: 2026-2027 Fund Distribution Plan for calendar years 2026 and 2027.

Council Members expressed support for the distribution plan, noting excitement about the future direction. There were questions about how to connect cities who are interested in applying and about future evaluation. Cities can reach out to staff and/or check the enrollment process on the LCA website. Staff will continue to update Council Members on the finalized evaluation plan.

**Motion carried.**

3. 2025-236 Adoption of Utility Allowance Schedule for Metro HRA Rent Assistance Programs (Terri Smith 651-602-1187; Steve Victorey 651-602-1461)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis that the Metropolitan Council approve the attached Utility Allowance Schedule as shown in Table 2 for use in the Housing Choice Voucher and other rent assistance programs effective January 1, 2026.

Council Members asked for clarification on changes and expressed appreciation for breakdowns per household.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Imagine 2050 Outcomes Measurement Program Update – Land Use, Parks and Trails, and Housing measures (Krysten Ryba-Tures 651-602-1821; Sarah Nelson 651-602-1396)

With the adoption of Imagine 2050 in February comes the opportunity to develop a new measurement program that centers outcomes related to intersectional regional policy direction and regional goals.

On June 4, 2025, community development research staff shared final updates for indicator projects under Thrive MSP 2040 (the previous regional development guide) to Committee of the Whole. Discussion included the trade-offs between:

“Indicator project” approach—a limited number of high-level indicators selected to describe progress on pre-defined outcomes or goals; or

“Programmatic” approach—a strategic alignment of monitoring, research, and policy that uses thematic structures to organize expansive sets of direct and indirect measures.

A programmatic approach to Imagine 2050 outcomes measurement received the strongest support. This approach includes pairing regional indicators with measures that describe the efforts of regional partners as well as Met Council’s direct roles for a more holistic understanding of regional change.

On September 3, 2025, community development research staff shared an update on

program direction in the context of Imagine 2050's five regional goals to Committee of the Whole. Staff reviewed the programmatic approach to outcomes measurement and presented a slate of proposed measures for the regional goals. While discussion was limited due to time constraints, the direction of the outcomes measurement program received support.

Additional conversation centered on the importance of further evolution as this work develops – including measurement about the implementation of Imagine 2050's equity frameworks and commitments to the American Indian Advisory Committee. Staff explained that further refinement will be needed as data sources at both the federal and local level continue to evolve. The discussion concluded with a request for additional time and conversation about the outcomes measurement program.

Council Members and staff discussed the information as the PowerPoint presentation was presented. The tree canopy goals, impact and density issues were discussed, residential footprints, the use of the solar app tool, impervious surfaces, and the in-depth data with ability to drill down for more data and access to the public. Ratio indicators were explained and the dashboard measuring upward mobility, home values, and number of households were discussed. Comments regarding the data from the park visitors' study was expressed indicating many visitors are unaware of what type of park (regional, county, city) they are visiting.

2. 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program (Heather Giesel 651-602-1715)

Council Members and staff discussed the presented information indicating changes in distribution over time, land acquisitions, and funding for equity grants.

### Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:10 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 September 15, 2025.

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#### Council contact:

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