

# Minutes

## Land Use Advisory Committee



**Meeting date:** May 15, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

### Members present:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Glisky, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Droste, District 12  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom McKee, District 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gunnar Carlson, District 7           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mai Chong Xiong, District 13 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lona Doolan, District 2          | <input type="checkbox"/> Noah Keller, District 8              | <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Worthington, District 14        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Anderson, District 3                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beketa Jilo, District 9   | <input type="checkbox"/> VACANT, District 15                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gerald Bruner, District 4 Carver | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Roe, District 10      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Wolter, District 16   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathi Mocol, District 4 Scott    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kirsten Libby, District 11           | <input type="checkbox"/> = Present                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Hayford Oleary, District 5  |   |  |

### 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 Diego called the regular meeting of the Land Use Advisory 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 Morales.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Morales noted and welcomed many new members to the Commission and introductions were made.

### Agenda approved

Committee Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. The agenda was accepted.

### Approval of minutes

It was moved by Roe, seconded by Bruner to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, regular meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Livable Communities Act Programs: Alignment with Imagine 2050 & Program Update (Hannah Gary, 651-602-1633, and Emily Seddon, 651-602-1023)

Gary and Seddon gave an update on the Livable Communities Act Programs and discussed how they align with Imagine 2050 as well as giving a program update as outlined in the materials provided.

Bruner asked for clarification on what is considered a living wage. Staff noted that income limits are determined by family size, so it varies.

Doolan asked if buildings can be repurposed. Gary responded yes and noted that they've worked with developers on these types of projects. She noted the grant agreements are with the city and then the cities usually have a sub-contract with a developer.

Doolan asked about clean up and if that is only for actual cleaning up of a site. Gary explained how environmental sustainability plays into the scoring criteria for projects.

Gary reviewed discussion questions posed in the presentation and asked for feedback.

Roe discussed employment opportunities and the need for alignment with housing and transportation.

Morales asked if employment opportunities weigh into the scoring of grants. Gary stated they do not but noted they look at opportunities for wealth building, work force training, etc.

Mocol discussed education opportunities and the importance of these opportunities.

Bruner asked for more information on affordable housing opportunities that he could forward.

Xiong asked how is affordable and inclusivity measured in this work? Gary discussed a list of who we want to prioritize and stated it will be more of a monitoring process at first.

Xiong discussed working with emerging developers and areas of concentrated poverty and encouraged looking at those aspects.

Doolan asked to see scoring criteria, as she felt that would be helpful. Seddon stated they will have a 90% draft that can be shared later this summer. Gary noted that the next round of engagement will be looking at these processes.

Hayford-Oleary asked about connections to transit, etc. Gary discussed the transit-oriented development programs that look at this and stated it is not a part of the scoring criteria yet.

Jilo discussed services/amenities to an area. Gary discussed how they are considering those measures at this time and stated they are looking for suggestions.

2. Planning Assistance Grant Program and Small Communities Planning Program (Merritt Clapp-Smith, 651-602-1567, and Angela R. Torres, 651-602-1566)

Torres and Clapp-Smith gave a presentation on the Small Communities Planning Program and the Planning Assistance Grant Program Eligibility Criteria Options outlined in the materials and presentation provided.

Glisky asked about the amount of money available. Torres discussed the proposed budget staff are working on. Increases in inflation as well as adding communities is being considered.

Glisky asked about engagement with small communities and asked how they feel about receiving help. Clapp-Smith stated they have been receptive and noted that we will work with them, not for them. The goal is to help them complete their plans.

Mocol asked how communities that will no longer be eligible for grants will be notified. Torres stated that once the criteria are established and how much funding will be available, staff will work with communities no longer eligible and noted staff will always be available to assist. Clapp-Smith noted that Sector Reps are assigned to each community and will be available for assistance. Torres discussed other planning groups that receive this information but noted

Mocol's point that communication is key.

Roe discussed communities that ought to be eligible and asked if criteria could be shifted if needed. He would like to see 'nearly eligible' communities be eligible and asked if that is something staff could look at moving forward.

Doolan asked, when does the planning process start and when are 2050 Comprehensive Plans due? Torres explained that they will be due on 12/31/2028. She noted that the System Statement will be sent out this September and that begins the process. Communities can submit their plans anytime after the System Statements are received.

Hayford-Oleary commented that his city, in the last plan update, did only the bare minimum largely due to costs. Torres discussed technical assistance resources available to help communities get the most out of their plan.

McKee asked if consideration has been given to changes in density (on the developing edge)

Droste asked about density calculations and considerations for wetlands. Torres noted that this will be a part of our workplan for this committee this year.

### **Announcements/Reminders**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Land Use Advisory Committee meeting of May 15, 2025.

Approved this 17th day of July 2025.

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### **Council contact:**

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