

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 28, 2021

Subject: Appointments to the Livable Communities Advisory Committee

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes 473.25

Staff Prepared/Presented: Charlie Zelle, Chair

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following appointments to the Livable Communities Advisory Committee:

Appointments through July 2022

Chair (At-Large)

- Mayor Marylee Abrams – City of Maplewood

Vice Chair (Selected from the current committee members)

- Elise Durbin – Executive Director of the Carver County CDA

Appointments through July 2023

Community Engagement (Community organizing, arts-based engagement, engagement strategy)

- Josie Shardlow – Community Engagement Manager with City of Brooklyn Park
- Mala Thao – Philanthropic Advisor at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Environment (Integration of natural and water resources in development, climate mitigation and adaptation, environmental justice)

- Vanessa Perry – Planning Director, Minnesota DNR

Development (Equitable development strategies, new development, redevelopment)

- Jamie Thelen – CEO, Sand Companies

Local government (Planning, economic or community development)

- Linnea Graffunder-Bartels – Senior Community Development Specialist, City of Oakdale

Transportation (Development relationship, transportation specialty, multimodal transportation)

- Darrell Washington – MnDOT, Office of Transit and Active Transportation, Transportation Program Supervisor

Site Design (Landscape architecture, land planning specialty, urban design, public space design)

- Bruce Chamberlain – Stanek, Principal
- Mauricio Ochoa – Project Architect, DJR Architecture, Inc.

Background

The Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviews and recommends funding awards to the Council under the Livable Communities Demonstration Account and Transit-Oriented Development grant categories. This is a technical review group with broad expertise that reviews complex development and redevelopment proposals against the program's criteria for project that create more housing choice, support living wage job creation, and connect jobs, housing, and regional amenities to create a more equitable region. The committee typically meets Thursday mornings from October-December.

The LCAC has 15 members who are appointed by the Metropolitan Council. Fourteen of the 15 members serve in a specific area of expertise. The 15th member is the Committee Chair and does not represent a specific area of expertise. There is a priority for members who represent historically underrepresented communities or those who work directly with historically underrepresented communities. The bylaws set two year terms for LCAC members. The Chair is appointed or reappointed each year.

Expertise Areas:

- **Local Government:** Planning, economic or community development
- **Development Finance:** affordable housing finance, private banking, real estate, mixed-use development; public finance
- **Development:** Equitable development strategies, new development, redevelopment
- **Transportation:** Development relationship, transportation specialty, multimodal transportation
- **Environment:** Integration of natural and water resources in development, climate mitigation and adaptation, environmental justice
- **Site Design:** Landscape architecture, land planning specialty, urban design, public space design
- **Community Engagement:** Community organizing, arts-based engagement, engagement strategy

Rationale

Nine Livable Community Advisory Committee appointments are up for reappointment. One is the at-large committee chair appointment, and the other eight openings are in one of the seven expertise areas. Six of the appointments are available due to term expirations and the other three because of representatives leaving their appointment early. In addition, to the nine openings we are selecting current LCAC member to serve as vice chair.

To help make recommendations for the eight expertise appointments Council Member Susan Vento Johnson chaired the nominating committee which included Council Member Chai Lee, Council Member Reva Chamblis, current LCAC member Elise Durbin and Livable Communities Manager Tara Beard. The nominating committee hosted interviews on June 11 and June 30 for the twenty applications that were received for the open positions. The nominating committee reviewed the application materials, interviewee comments and other input received to develop its recommendation. The panel consulted with Chair Zelle and their appointment recommendations are noted above.

If appointed, the committee chair appointee will complete their one-year term July 2022. If appointed, the Community Engagement, Environment, Development, Local Government, Transportation, Site Design appointees will complete two-year terms ending July 2023.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing member to LCAC is necessary to keep the committee functioning. LCAC work advances all five Thrive Outcomes through helping add or preserve a diversity of land uses, housing types and jobs supporting economic competitiveness over other regions.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.