

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: September 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-184

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 two-year appointments through July 2025 to the Livable Communities Advisory Committee:

Chair

- William Blonigan

Local Government

- Stephanie Hawkinson
- Nichole Klonowski

Development Finance

- Brian Doyle
- Bernadette Hornig

Transportation

- Fay Simer

Environment

- Matthew Ramadan

Site Design

- Bruce Chamberlain
- Aron Johnson

Community Engagement

- Mala Thao
- Valerie Quarles

Background

The Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviews and recommends funding awards to the Metropolitan Council under the Livable Communities Demonstration Account and Transit Oriented Development grant categories. This group provides technical review. Members offer broad expertise to review complex development and redevelopment proposals against the program's criteria for projects 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 fifteen members who are appointed by the Metropolitan Council. Fourteen of the fifteen members serve in a specific area of expertise. The fifteenth 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

To help make recommendations for the appointments a nominating committee was convened with Council Member Chai Lee, Council Member Susan Vento, previous LCAC Vice Chair Mauricio Ochoa and Livable Communities Senior Manager Sarah Berke. The nominating committee reviewed materials from fourteen applications submitted for the eleven available positions. To develop this recommendation, the nominating committee evaluated applicants on their relevant experience, how that fit with the scope of the advisory committee's work, their understanding of racial equity and efforts to reduce regional disparities, and the diversity of their representation. The nominating committee consulted with Chair Zelle and their appointment recommendations are noted above.

Rationale

The LCAC Chair and eleven expertise area representatives are open for appointment on the Livable Community Advisory Committee. All eleven of the expertise area appointments are available due to term expirations and resignations. The remaining three expertise area representatives are continuing from existing terms.

If appointed, the Local Government, Development Finance, Transportation, Environment, Site Design, and Community Engagement appointees will complete two-year terms ending July 2025.

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.



Funding

Staffing and support of the Livable Communities Advisory Committee is a regular part of the Community Development budget.

