

# Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: July 24, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-201

Livable Communities Advisory Committee Appointments

<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes 473.25
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	Charlie Zelle, Chair
<b>Division/department:</b>	Chair's Office

### Proposed action

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

- Chair: William Blonigan
- Development: Kou Vang
- Transportation: Samantha McKinney

### 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. Members review 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 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

### **Rationale**

Two terms expired in 2024, leaving two vacancies on the committee. Both members with expiring terms are eligible and expressed interest in continuing to serve. Staff is requesting re-appointment of both members. They were both actively engaged with the committee and brought significant value to the review process.

Staff are also recommending that William Blonigan, Mayor of the City of Robbinsdale, be re-appointed to serve as the Committee Chair.

### **Thrive lens analysis**

Appointing members 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.

