

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: June 6, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Robert Lilligren, D7
- Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D11
- Judy Johnson, District 1

- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Molly Cummings, District 5
- Abdirahman Muse, District 8

- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
 - Chai Lee, District 13
 - Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Vento called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2022 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-151** Establish Public Hearing Date – Public Housing Agency Plan (Stephanie Paulson 651-602-1584)
2. **2022-152** Approval of Joint Powers Agreement Between the Metropolitan Council and the Minneapolis Public Housing authority (MPHA) for the administration of the Community Choice Demonstration Program (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)
3. **2022-128** City of Ramsey Urban Residential Low Density Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 21819-3 (Eric Wojchik 651-602-1330)
4. **2022-138** City of Plymouth Bassett Creek Mixed Use Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review No. 21855-5 (Freya Thamman 651 602-1750)
5. **2022-139** Rush Creek Regional Trail, Land-for-Facilities Exchange, Three Rivers Park District (Tracey Kinney 651-602-1029)
6. **2022-141** Amendment to the 2019 Pilot Year Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program Fund Distribution Plan (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)
7. **2022-142** Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grey Cloud Island Regional Park (Wald), Washington County (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Wulff.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions or discussion as part of its consent agenda.

Motion carried

Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

1. **2022-140 JT:** City of Vermillion 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22180-1 (Patrick Boylan 651-602-1438)

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

1. Authorize the City of Vermillion to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. The City needs provide to the Council the date the Watershed approves the final Local Water Management Plan, and the date the City adopts the final Local Water Management Plan. We also request that the City provide the Council with a copy of the final adopted Local Water Management Plan that will be included in the final Plan document that the City adopts, if it differs from the version in the Plan submitted to the Council on December 31, 2018.
3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for forecasts and water supply.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-156 JT:** City of Bethel 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 22307-1 (Eric Wojchik 651-602-1330)

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

1. Authorize the City of Bethel to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. Require the City provide to the Council the date the City adopted the final Local Water Management Plan, and a send a copy of the final Local Water Management Plan if it differs from the draft version, dated September 2019.
3. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for forecasts, housing, and water supply.

Council Member Cummings inquired about the differences in the census numbers and the Metropolitan Council data. Ms. Barajas responded 2020 data is only adjusted when the community notices an error, plans do not have to include population and staff work with communities for revisions or adjustments.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions. Motion carried.

3. **2022-157 Funding Recommendations for 2022 Round One Livable Communities Demonstration Account and Transit Oriented Development Predevelopment Grants** (Stephen Klimek 651-602-1541)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Muse, that the Metropolitan Council award four Livable Communities Act Predevelopment Grants totaling \$475,000 as shown Table 1 below.

Table 1. Recommended Grant Projects and Funding Amounts

Applicant	Recommended Project	Award Amount
City of Brooklyn Center	International Food Village	\$100,000
City of Minneapolis	Jema River	\$150,000
City of Minneapolis	Re+4RM Project	\$150,000
City of Saint Paul	African American Community Development Center	\$75,000

Council Member Chamblis commented on streamlined changes to the program and



expressed interest in further analysis on the impact of those changes at the end of the year. Council Member Chamblis asked if the City of Brooklyn Center application included BIPOC businesses in the development. Mr. Klimek identified partners listed in the application and invited the project team to add additional details. Mr. James Sanigular, a member of the project team, shared the inclusion of a medical clinic and provision of job services for nontraditional employment with the support of partners. The Committee members expressed their support for the Brooklyn Center application and further discussed with Mr. Sanigular various details of the project. Council Member Cummings asked, from both the applicant and staff perspective, how program changes have been received. Mr. Oduwa Aganmwonyi responded that the process was confusing but had assistance from the City of Brooklyn Center, consultants, and Council staff in successfully completing the application. Mr. Klimek shared that the changes have been positive so far and that some of the local government staff have also expressed appreciation for the changes. Council Member Chamblis shared gratitude for the applicant's feedback that the project team was able to work with the Metropolitan Council. Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Parks System Historical-Cultural Study – Project Update (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621; Amanda Lovelee 651-602-1375)

Regional Parks' staff provided an update on the project and discuss project goals, next steps, and timeline.

The Regional Parks System Historical Cultural Study project began in Spring 2021 with a kick-off meeting between Council staff and Regional Park Implementing Agency leaders. Working together in partnership, this study seeks to establish a baseline understanding of the formation of the Regional Parks System. More importantly, the study focuses on highlighting the impacts of past inequitable practices and how this resulted in current day inequities within this system. This project will strive to find ways to acknowledge our past and build a more inclusive system moving forward.

In Summer of 2022, the Parks team developed a draft baseline historical report that has been shared with the Regional Park Implementing Agencies. Council project staff then met individually with each Implementing Agency over the winter to share the historical report presentation and to talk about the project's next steps and desired goals and outcomes.

The Council is working to hire a consultant in late Spring 2022 to help with the next phases of the project. The ideas and suggestions heard at stakeholder meetings (Implementing Agencies, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissioners, Council Members) were incorporated into the Request for Proposal (RFP), which has been posted on the Council's website. Once a consultant is hired, we will convene conversations with a variety of stakeholders across the region around this work and the study's intentions.

2. Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program – Proposed Process and Timeline (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* committed the Council to developing a set-aside, competitive equity grant program to strengthen equitable use of the Regional Parks System. The Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program (Equity Grant Program) was formally established in 2019 through a pilot program with capital funding that resulted in awards for three Regional Park System equity projects. The pilot program illustrated the need for non-capital funding to support equity programming projects. The Council responded by setting aside \$1.4 million in 2018 and 2019 Parks Interest Earnings for the 2021 program, which was used to support non-capital equity programming projects. In addition, \$664,000 was available and awarded for capital projects.

At this time, Parks Interest Earnings available from 2020 and 2021 are significantly less than in previous years, with a total of around \$550,000. While the original intent was to have an Equity Grant Program grant cycle every other year, Council staff are recommending that the Council

postpone the next cycle for one year, with the goal of having more interest earnings available for non-capital projects. The Council would post a Notice of Funding Availability in the fall of 2023, soliciting applications for the next grant cycle with grant awards announced in spring of 2024. Regional Park Implementing Agencies, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission members, and Committee Development Committee members will be engaged throughout this process.

3. National Trends in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)

Staff provided an overview of the report, to compare the national trends to Metro HRA program trends and provide information and data on funding and voucher utilization.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a year-end report on the metrics of the Housing Choice Voucher program and challenges faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report examines the COVID impacts that affect the nation's largest rental assistance program. The loss of income for HCV families created unprecedented upward pressure on the average subsidy costs. Attrition rates sharply dropped as did many other actions in the program including new admissions and moves. The influx of CARES Act funds compensated for the increase in spending and results record levels of reserves.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:55 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 June 6, 2022.

Approved this 21 day of June 2022.

Council Contact:

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