

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, September 15, 2014

Committee Members Present: Kramer, Chávez, Elkins, Munt, Rummel, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Cunningham, Commers

Committee Members Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Kramer called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Rummel to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

A. Consent

2014-229 Grant SG-2012-059 Scope Modification and Amendment to 2014 Park CIP Grant for Keller Regional Park as local match to Federal grant for Rice Creek North Regional Trail extension, Ramsey County

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

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG-2012-059 to change the scope (development project) to ~~substitute~~ add "for professional design and engineering services, construction consultant fees and supplemental construction costs for the extension of Rice Creek North Regional Trail, from County Road H to Long Lake Regional Park, as a match to a \$1,100,000 Federal TAP grant." Also, amend the agreement end date to June 30, 2018 to match the Federal grant end date.
2. Approve an amendment to the 2014 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program to change the \$555,000 grant to Ramsey County for Keller Regional Park to substitute "for the extension of Rice Creek North Regional Trail, from County Road H to Long Lake Regional Park, to match a \$1,100,000 Federal TAP grant."

Motion carried.

2014-230 Chain of Lakes-Otter Lake Regional Trail Master Plan, Anoka County

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

1. Approve the Chain of Lakes-Otter Lake Regional Trail Master Plan.
2. Require that prior to initiating development of the Chain of Lakes-Otter Lake Regional Trail, preliminary plans should be sent to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the regional interceptor system.

Motion carried.

2014-231 Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan Amendment and Grant Request, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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

1. Approve the Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan Amendment.
2. Authorize a grant of \$100,000 to further the design, engineering and implementation for Hall's Island within the Above the Falls Regional Park Master Plan that is consistent with the amended 2014 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.
3. Inform the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board that Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds are not eligible to be used for remediation of contaminated soils that may be exposed on the Scherer Park site as part of the creation of Hall's Island and the Mississippi River back channel.

Motion carried.

B. Non-Consent

2014-142 Approval of the 2015 Public Housing Agency Plan

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Rummel, that the Metropolitan Council approve the 2015 Five (5) Year and Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA), authorize the Metropolitan Council Chair to execute the required certifications and direct staff to submit the final Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Several general questions about the HRA programs were asked and answered. **Motion carried.**

2014-227 Authorization to Amend the 2014 Unified Budget: Fourth Quarter Amendment

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Rummel, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the amendment of the 2014 Unified Capital Program as indicated and in accordance with this memorandum and the attached table.

Motion carried. The Community Development Committee had no questions.

While waiting for the public hearing to begin Guy Peterson announced the details for the next Community Development Committee meeting on October 6, 4 pm at the Brooklyn Park City Hall.

2014-232 Public hearing on the Housing Policy Plan

(Hearing to begin at 5 pm) The Metropolitan Council has been developing the *2040 Housing Policy Plan* since early 2013 and convened a Housing Policy Plan Work Group starting in summer 2013. The

2040 Housing Policy Plan is building off of the rich outreach, engagement, and policy discussion underlying *Thrive MSP 2040*. The draft plan was released for public comment on July 23, 2014. The hearing record will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, 2014.

Guy Peterson introduced the Community Development staff attending the hearing and the Community Development Committee members introduced themselves to the audience attending the hearing.

Link to video of public hearing testimonies

http://metrocouncil.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=2016

List of people testifying at the public hearing:

Jeffrey Martin – NAACP

Mr. Martin commented on life-cycle housing and the need for equity in Fair Housing Choices, the need to combat discrimination, this Housing Policy Plan does not make discrimination a priority, the language of the plan is non-committal, discriminatory lending / renting practices not addressed. He remarked the Metropolitan Council should enforce fair share of affordable housing in all communities and should extend efforts for economic development.

Jim Hilbert – NAACP

Mr. Hilbert remarked he shares Mr. Martin's view and added the information which correlates housing and education. Mr. Hilbert explained the segregation of schools, mentioning Maxfield & Jackson as the two most segregated schools. He suggested exploring how to empower schools, increase engagement in schools, and commented on how housing contributes to segregation.

Katherine Kersten – Center of the American Experiment

Ms. Kersten remarked the Housing Policy Plan is a serious overreach; it has a social agenda and a credibility gap. The plan has no summary, no transparency. The Council role is calling the shots and the local roles are implementing plan. Ms. Kersten remarked the data in the plan contains artificial shortages, racial & ethnic clustering which dictates regional poverty and indicates a solution to poverty is dilution. Ms. Kersten encouraged helping low income people succeed.

Patricia Nauman – Metro Cities

Ms. Nauman complemented the Metropolitan Council housing policy plan's housing goals and the inclusion of stakeholders and addressing housing for all stages of life. She commented her concern over the lack of an executive summary, barriers in funding and resources. She suggested adding a section to the plan listing the defined roles of the Metropolitan Council. Also needed is information addressing diversity.

Lars Negstad – ISALAH

Mr. Negstad thanked the Metropolitan Council staff for pulling together the Housing Policy Plan and he will submit written comments, he just had a few comments. He stated the plan needs to address discriminating lending practices, the appeasements to rich communities regarding affordable housing goals; suggesting effective reviews and enforcement in system plans and do not reward bad behavior of communities not reaching their goals. LCA funds allocations should be lowered if communities do not meet the need.

Judy Rhein - ISALAH

Ms. Rhein explained her circumstances of being widowed and concern over housing. She was fortunate to remarry, but empathizes with struggling families. The waiting list for affordable housing is very long and she commented on her concern of this compromised, watered down plan. She inquired about the authority and accountability in the plan, the Metropolitan Council has the authority to make communities provide affordable housing.

Joy Marsh Stephens – ISALAH

Ms. Stephens commented on the urgency for racial equity as mentioned in Chair Haigh in her State of the Region speech. Ms. Stephens commented she appreciates the work in the Housing Policy Plan, however stronger language is needed and use regulatory goals. She stated affluent communities are off the hook for affordable housing. The region is separating not coming together. She will be submitting written comments.

Ann Mongoven – ISALAH

Ms. Mongoven encouraged the Metropolitan Council use its' power to implement the Housing Policy Plan and address red circle lenders; black neighbors are not receiving same services, and aim for the goal of economic diversity.

Cheryl Peterson – Guardian Church

Ms. Peterson explained her church provides temporary housing for 87 families, and she wants to see a broader social commitment, economic and racial justice. She suggests investing in affordable housing and transit. She commented the Metropolitan Council can provide the necessary leadership.

Sue Watlov Phillips – MICAH

Ms. Phillips thanked the Metropolitan Council for its work on the housing policy plan. She explained MICAH's vision of a safe, affordable place to call home. Ms. Phillips questioned for who the plan was written and who it represents. She commented the Metropolitan Council has a strong role in affirming

fair housing, analyzing impediments, and equitable opportunities for ownership. She wants stronger coordination with state and federal entities.

Tim Thompson – Housing Preservation Project

Mr. Thompson commented the housing performance scores should be revised, the scores should matter to cities, incentive scores. He would like a quantitative review of comprehensive plans and restore funding to housing incentive account. He commented more units are needed in high opportunity areas. He also suggests including language in other system plans to further housing goals. He stated the hard work does not end with the adoption of the plan.

Will Stancil – Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity

Mr. Stancil explained the concentration in RCAP areas is making the problem worse. He stated affordable housing development near transit is needed, he claims a negative score in housing goals and white suburbs have missed their goals. He claims no fair share goals violate Metropolitan Council policy.

James Wilkinson – St Paul resident

Mr. Wilkinson advocating for disabled people in the region; disability crosses all racial and economic groups. He indicated everyone should have choices where to live and fair housing should be a central principle. He suggests integrating fair housing principles and practices and partnering with other regional entities. Mr. Wilkinson stated this is an important opportunity to advance affordable housing.

William Moore – NAACP

Mr. Moore explained NAACP's position stating access to affordable housing is a right not a privilege. He remarked the housing policy plan is hard to read.

Yusef Mgeni – St Paul resident

Mr. Mgeni was a former board member for the NAACP but is speaking as a citizen today at the public hearing. He stressed the need for fair housing, and the barrier of "NIMBY" (not in my back yard). He stated housing discrimination hurts white people too, housing segregation and discrimination hurts everyone. He commented discrimination impacts the future of the region and limits our own freedom of actions.

Owen Duckworth – Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

Mr. Duckworth commented even though he appreciates the work of the Metropolitan Council the housing policy plan failed to engage residents, under-represented groups and communities. He stated the focus should be on protecting and expanding affordable housing. Mr. Duckworth explained community engagement is the pathway to racial equity. He also wants success measured, and pointed out pages 74-76 in the plan and include measures of income burdens and goals.

Nelimastali Munene – Org App Project / NWCC

Ms. Munene commented on how housing affects peoples' lives. She suggests housing should be woven into other systems and the language of the plan needs to be stronger. Ms. Munene remarked to ensure equitable development integrate communities with sustainable solutions. She also suggests looking at past practices and policies.

Tim Lipton – NAACP

Mr. Lipton recalled years ago when the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners voted down an ordinance to allow blacks to buy homes. He asked why we still have this problem in housing.

Jerry Ransom – St Paul resident

Mr. Ransom asked how can we have fair outcomes without representation from ethnic groups and pointed out the lack of diversity of the committee.

Council Member Chávez spoke up and reminded the audience that he is Hispanic. And Chair Kramer reminded the audience that the regular chair of the Community Development Committee is black.

Chair Kramer gave details of the closing of the hearing and the comment period.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Michele Wenner

Recording Secretary