

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

## Committee Members Present:

Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Zelle

## Committee Members Absent:

Lilligren

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Lilligren

No response: 1 Gonzalez

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Lee to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2021 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 14 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Lilligren

No response: 1 Gonzalez

## INFORMATION

### 1. Metro Transit Police Work Group Update

Lesley Kandaras, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit, shared an update on the work of the Metro Transit Police Work Group. Kandaras reviewed topics covered since the last update, which included interactions with youth, and data, governance and accountability. Plans for upcoming meetings include a public comment opportunity and developing recommendations. Staff also asked for Council Member input on the following questions: Is there additional information about topics already covered in work group meetings that you need before developing recommendations? Are there topics that were not part of the initial work plan that

you want to cover before moving into developing recommendations or in the early stages of developing recommendations? What do you need from staff to support you as you prepare to develop recommendations?

Council Member Johnson asked how the public comment opportunity was shared with the public. Michelle Fure, Manager of Public Involvement, shared that the public comment opportunity has been shared widely, including in Council Member newsletters, social media, and outreach to partner agencies. Council Members had questions and comments regarding the results of the police officer survey, information and context regarding officers who feel unsupported, and for more information on the interactions with youth.

## 2. Solar for Vouchers Pilot Program Update

Cameran Bailey, Senior Planner, Community Development, and Baris Gumus-Dawes, Senior Researcher, Community Development, shared an update on the Solar-for-Vouchers Pilot Program. The Solar-for-Vouchers pilot program is a program offering free technical assistance to commercial rental property owners to adopt solar energy in their buildings to reduce energy costs. Rental property owners can take advantage of this free technical assistance program if some of their units are rented to Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program participants. This pilot meets the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of equity and sustainability, and the Council Strategic Plan priorities of housing and sustainability. The goals of the program were to enroll five to ten landlords, provide units to 75-100 voucher holders, and enroll two to three solar developers. The program was advertised through workshops, mass emails, phone calls, local media, and industry communications and networks. The program has generated statewide and national interest, including interested landlords outside of the original geographic scope. Many of the landlords who applied for the program were ineligible due to reasons such as being outside of the service area, rents that are too high, and unsuitable technical components such as an older roof. The pilot program enrolled five landlords and at least 29 units as of December 2021. The next steps are to decide how to scale and expand the program beyond a pilot, either in the metro region or statewide. Staff are working with potential partners to roll out the program on a larger scale with a longer time commitment.

Council Members had questions and comments about clean energy resource teams, the targeted partners for the project, climate change and vulnerable homes, the resulting number of vouchers being lower than the goal, and if staff had considered a potential partnership with Minnesota Housing. Council Members and staff also discussed potential incentives for local workers to install solar, apprenticeship and workforce development, as well as working with non-profit housing organizations statewide to further the program.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Bridget Toskey  
Recording Secretary