

# Minutes

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6

Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D12

Judy Johnson, District 1

Reva Chamblis, District 2

Peter Lindstrom, District 10

Chai Lee, District 13

Toni Carter, District 14

Tenzin Dolkar, District 15

Wendy Wulff, District 16

= present, E = excused

## Call to Order

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

## Agenda Approved

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

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Consent Business

1. **2024-221** Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (CCRRA), Carver County (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Vento seconded by Johnson that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$1,611,000 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Carver County to acquire in easement approximately 5.2 acres of a former Carver County Regional Railroad Authority corridor located in Chaska, MN, for the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

**Motion carried.**

2. **2024-306** Louisville-Merriam Junction Regional Trail Long-Range Plan, Scott County (Tracey Kinney 651-602-1029)

It was moved by Vento seconded by Johnson that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Louisville-Merriam Junction Regional Trail Long-Range Plan (future Merriam Junction Regional Trail).
2. Approve the 0.20-mile trail extension of the Minnesota River Bluffs Extension and Scott County Connection Regional Trail (future Merriam Junction Regional Trail) amending the

long-range plan to provide a seamless connection to the Louisville-Merriam Junction Regional Trail.

3. Require Scott County, prior to initiating any construction, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.
4. Advise the County to consider implementing the recommendations for the Met Council's wastewater, water, and the regional bicycle transportation network in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.

**Motion carried.**

3. **2024-307** Shallow Waters Regional Trail Long-Range Plan, Scott County (Kevin Phan 651-602-1333)

It was moved by Vento seconded by Johnson that the Metropolitan Council approve the Shallow Waters Regional Trail Long-Range Plan.

**Motion carried.**

4. **2024-308** Elm Creek Park Reserve, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Lasher), Three Rivers Park District (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Vento seconded by Johnson that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$420,000 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 2.8-acre parcel located at 12651 Elm Creek Crossing in Champlin, MN, for the Elm Creek Park Reserve.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

**Motion carried.**

5. **2024-309** Diamond Lake Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Boggs), Three Rivers Park District (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Vento seconded by Johnson that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$525,000 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire a 23.2-acre parcel located at 17700 117th Ave N in Dayton, MN, for the Diamond Lake Regional Trail.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

**Motion carried.**

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

**Non-Consent Business**

1. **2024-310 SW** West Mississippi River Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Yancy), Three Rivers Park District (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Johnson seconded by Lee that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$1,280,000 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire four parcels totaling 6.9 acres located at 15520 Lawndale Lane North in Dayton, MN, for the West Mississippi River Regional Trail.



2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
3. Require that Three Rivers Park District resolve access issues with the property owner before acquiring the property.
4. Require that if Three Rivers Park District is able to sell the newer home at a public auction, the proceeds must first be used to cover stewardship costs that exceed their required match. Any remaining proceeds must be used for the betterment of Three Rivers Park District's share of the Regional Parks and Trails System.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Livable Communities Act Program Update (Ellen Watters; MaryKay Bailey; Sarah Berke 651-602-1198)

As part of the adoption of the 2024 Fund Distribution Plan (FDP), the Council directed staff to add to the 2024 Committee work plan a Council Member-engaged process for reviewing the LCA program to address the equity scoring criteria, geographic distribution of awards, and barriers to participation in the program. In July, the Council hired consultants Ellen Watters and Mary Kay Bailey to analyze program data and gain understanding from both participating cities and non-participating cities of their perceptions of Livable Communities grant programs. The consultants' overall focus is to evaluate the impact of the program and identify opportunities for improvement to better meet the two identified goals:

1. Ensuring the alignment of program design with the regional goals identified for the forthcoming [Imagine 2050](#) regional development guide:

Our region is equitable and inclusive

Our communities are healthy and safe

Our region is dynamic and resilient

We lead on addressing climate change

We protect and restore natural systems

2. Encouraging broad participation from communities in the region and reducing barriers to entry to the grant program

As part of the LCA review process consultants Ellen Watters and Mary Kay Bailey presented at the Community Development Committee meeting on September 3 and October 7, 2024. At the September 3 meeting, the consultant team presented the scope of the LCA program review and update process, project goals, overview of data on LCA outcomes, and led a workshop with Community Development Committee members to gain feedback on tensions identified in the program. At the October 7 Community Development Committee meeting, the consultants further explored the tensions identified at the September 3 meeting and presented potential changes to LCA programs in upcoming years for Community Development Committee member discussion.

2. Imagine 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan: Public Comment Summary and Next Steps (Colin Kelly 651-602-1361; Emmett Mullin 651-602-1360)

On October 7, 2024, the public comment period closed for the draft Imagine 2050 plan, the Met Council's regional development guide. Imagine 2050 includes each of the Met Council's system and policy plans, including regional parks and trails, transportation, water resources, and housing.

At the November 18, 2024, Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting, Council staff shared a summary of the public comments that focus on the Regional Parks and Trails

Policy Plan (draft policy plan) and outline next steps.

Comments on the draft policy plan were received from agencies, local governmental units, and the public, including the National Park Service and most of the regional park implementing agencies. Many commenters provided feedback via an online platform implemented by the Met Council specifically for the Imagine 2050 public comment period. Others provided comments via email, during the public hearing, or at one of over 20 Art + Policy engagement events. In addition to more traditional narrative comments, over 200 flags were sewn, 144 mural blocks were painted, and 16 Indigenous youth manifestos were written.

Given the variety of engagement opportunities at multiple scales, comments ranged from very broad (e.g., responding to the prompt, “what are your dreams for the region?”) to highly specific (e.g., commenting on a draft action within the policy plan). Broad comments primarily came from the public and those attending Art + Policy engagement events. Specific comments came from regional park implementing agencies and local governmental units. At the November 18, 2024, CDC meeting, Council staff will share key themes emerging from the public comment process, provide examples of comments received, and solicit feedback on proposed policy plan direction.

While the focus of the November CDC meeting will be on public comments received, work continues on the draft Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan and Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook (draft planning handbook).

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:48 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 November 18, 2024.

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### Council Contact:

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