

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 18, 2019

**Committee Members Present: Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Vento, Wulff**

**Committee Members Absent: Johnson**

**Committee Members Excused:**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Muse to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Vento to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **1. Introduction to the Community Development Division**

This information item provided an introduction to the Community Development Division describing major responsibilities; providing coordinated planning and policy to guide the growth and development of the region, partnering with regional park implementing agencies to plan for and fund the Regional Parks System, providing technical assistance to local governments to implement region policy in their local plans, facilitating community collaboration, delivering state and federally funded rent assistance to create and provide affordable housing for low-income households, providing Livable Communities Act grants to help clean up polluted sites, expand housing choices, and build developments that connect housing, jobs, and services, and identifying, analyzing, and reporting on issues of regional importance.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **1. Housing and Redevelopment Authority Overview**

Metro HRA Director Terri Smith presented the information item to the Community Development Committee. This information item provided an overview of the Metropolitan Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority; created by Minnesota Legislature in 1974, specifically to administer rent subsidy programs for low income families. Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act allows public rent payments to private landlords, 10 programs serving low-income families with rent subsidy, 7,200 program households, \$60 million annually in rent payments, and 2,000 active landlords. Serving Anoka County, Carver County, Suburban Hennepin County, Suburban Ramsey County.

## **BUSINESS**

### **2019-59** Project Based Voucher Award Recommendations

Metro HRA Director Terri Smith presented the business item to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Lee, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approve the award of Project Based Voucher (PBV) assistance and authorize staff to execute the necessary documents with the project owners for the following two (2) projects: Minnetonka Heights-Minnetonka, Trail Point Ridge-Eden Prairie.

#### **Motion carried.**

Council Member Chamblis asked about the number of baseline affordable units in each project required by the cities. Staff responded that although the Council's Housing Policy Plan outlines an allocation of affordable housing need by community, the numbers are not project specific and there is no requirement for owners to utilize project-based vouchers.

### **2018-334** Update Bylaws of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Regional Parks Manager Emmett Mullin presented the business item to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council approve the updated Bylaws of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (see Attachment 1), changing the regular meeting of the Commission to the first Thursday of each month and making other housekeeping changes. **Motion carried.**

Council Member Lindstrom asked whether there was an end date for the terms of the four Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissioners whose terms are ending. Mullin responded that the current Commissioners have agreed to serve until new Commissioners are appointed or they are reappointed.

### **2019-51** Lebanon Hills Regional Park Utility Change, Dakota County

Parks Planner Tracey Kinney presented the business item to the Community Development Committee.

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

1. Consent to an easement to allow Dakota County to issue a 4.04-acre utility easement to Great River Energy to upgrade the existing 69-kV transmission line to a double circuit 115-kV transmission line.
2. Advise Dakota County that Minnesota Management and Budget must consent to Dakota County's easement described in recorded Declaration #3235301.

#### **Motion carried.**

Council Member Vento requested information about known opposition to the utility project. Kinney responded that Dakota County conducted a public hearing that resulted in the Dakota County Board approving the project. Dakota County also conducted targeted outreach with community groups resulting in support for the project.

### **2019-28** Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for Robert Piram Regional Trail, Various Easements, City of Saint Paul

Regional Parks Manager Emmett Mullin presented the business item to the Community Development Committee.

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

1. Approve a grant of up to \$134,303 to the City of Saint Paul to acquire eight trail easements comprising 54,902 square feet of permanent easements at the following locations in the City of Saint Paul for the Robert Pira Regional Trail: a. Parcels 1 and 2: Summit LLP, 345 Plato Boulevard East – 10,562 square feet in two parcels; b. Parcel 3: RBP Realty LLC, 264 Lafayette Frontage Road East – 9,302 square feet; c. Parcel 4: Catholic Charities, 341 Chester Street – 5,181 square feet; d. Parcel 5: Riverview Triangle LLC, 380 Chester Street – 15,479 square feet; and e. Parcels 6, 7, and 8: Eaton Street LLC, 301 Eaton Street – 14,378 square feet in three parcels. 2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenants on behalf of the Council; 3. Consider reimbursing the City for up to \$44,767 from its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding Program; and 4. Inform the City that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that the Council will grant future reimbursement and that expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

**Motion carried.**

Council Members asked several questions including a desire to understand the broader location of the proposed future acquisitions, connections to other Regional Parks System units and transit lines. Additionally, there was a question regarding Saint Paul's ability to complete the acquisition in light of the Council's willingness to pay only up to 110% of the appraised value. Staff explained that Saint Paul was aware of this limit and able to complete the acquisitions as planned. The City is prepared to pay the amounts over 110% of appraised value.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Michele Wenner  
Recording Secretary