

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, October 20, 2014

Committee Members Present: Cunningham, Chávez, Commers, Elkins, Munt, Rummel

Committee Members Absent: Kramer, Wulff

Committee Members Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Cunningham called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 20, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2014 special meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS - Consent

2014-252 Amend Project Scope of Park Grants SG-2011-106 and SG-2011-118, Carver County

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Rummel, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG-2011-106 to add to the project scope the design, engineering, construction of roads, parking lots, boat access, landscaping and fencing at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park.
2. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG-2011-118 to add to the project scope the design, engineering, construction of roads, parking lots, boat access, landscaping and fencing at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park, and to extend the term end date to June 30, 2016.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent

2014-253 2014 Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) and Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Recommendations
Senior Planner Adam Maleitzke & LCAC member Jim Barton presented the report to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Elkins, that the Metropolitan Council award five Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit-Oriented Development grants totaling \$4.5 million and two Tax Base Revitalization Account Transit-Oriented Development grants totaling \$2 million as follows:

Recommended Projects	City	Score (130 points possible)	Recommended Amount	
			LCDA-TOD Development	TBRA-TOD Cleanup
Aeon Prospect Park	Minneapolis	99.75	\$1,445,000	\$0
Mill City Quarter	Minneapolis	99.00	\$500,000	\$0
Vandalia Tower	Saint Paul	92.60	\$650,000	\$0
Downtown East	Minneapolis	86.85	\$0	\$1,000,000
Sunwood Village	Ramsey	84.70	\$580,000	\$0
The ARTery	Hopkins	82.85	\$1,325,000	\$0
Plymouth Building	Minneapolis	81.55	\$0	\$1,000,000
TOTAL RECOMMENDED			\$4,500,000	\$2,000,000
Total Available			\$4,500,000	\$2,750,000
Available Funds Not Awarded			\$0	\$750,000

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee commented on how helpful the metrics were in the report. They helped explain the what & why of the projects and demonstrated *place, choice & opportunity*. The Community Development Committee thanked the Livable Communities Advisory Committee for all its' work.

2014-254 Public Hearing - 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

The Council is required by Minnesota Statute 473.147 to prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's Metropolitan Development Guide. The Council has consulted with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies, other partners and stakeholders, and the general public as part of the development of the draft *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, which builds from the policy direction provided in *Thrive MSP 2040*. The draft plan was released for public comment on August 27, 2014. The public record will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2014.

Link to video of public hearing testimonies

http://metro council.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=2038

List of people testifying at the public hearing:

Bill Weir – Former Hennepin Parks Commissioner

Mr. Weir complimented the proposal for our growing park system. He will submit written comments also. He suggested another park to access Lake Minnetonka and would like safer in-line skating areas included in other facilities.

Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson – Parks & Trails Legacy Advisory Committee Chair

Ms. Atlas-Ingebretson commented this plan needs to support ties to equity and alignment, and connect people to the outdoors. Connecting people to the outdoors is related to how capital is spent. The plan supports engagement with a commitment in the 25 year plan. However Ms. Atlas-Ingebretson remarked the plan fail to insure basic expectation on how funds are spent.

Lisa Shefte & Korina Barry – KWE Strong

Ms. Shefte & Ms. Barry's organization for native woman and children exposes population to lakes and parks. They want their participants to feel welcomed in the parks, however permits are difficult to obtain. They also suggested information on how to use spaces and programs would be helpful.

Allie Riley – Neighborhood House

Ms. Riley commented a common problem and findings of the study is awareness. She explained her concern over the inequity of amenities between parks. She states the plan suggests an increase in outreach led by park staff which she believes is a priority for a growing population. She was pleased the plan includes accountability.

Edna Brazaitis – Friends of the River Front

Ms. Brazaitis thought the plan included thought provoking ideas. She had concerns regarding public transportation to the green spaces. She would like to see investments to increase visitor ship. And not see a "pay to play" policy or privatization which keeps people out of the parks.

Lori – Resident

Lori explained a missing trend in the plan; food in parks and a return to gardens and food productions. She is concerned about all the asphalt and its consequences.

Mike Kimble – St Paul Park & Recreation

Mr. Kimble distributed a letter to the Community Development committee members. He appreciates the relationship with the Metropolitan Council and its plan to embrace diversity & equity. He commented on his concern with the current method of data collection, it does not reflect usage. He suggests allowing implementing agencies to prioritize projects.

Bob – St Paul resident

Bob is an advocate for native youth and residents, and remarked our parks and rivers are a tourist attraction. We have a large population of urban natives. Native youth are looking for direction working with nature. He suggested a program for youths at risk.

Shirley – Resident

Shirley wants the racial equity policy enforced, she claims the plan does not reflect the population and needs an equity analysis. Barriers need to be removed, accessibility equals equity. She stated parks programs should meet the needs of everyone.

Boe Carlson and Jonathon Vlaming – Three Rivers Park District

Mr. Carlson & Mr. Vlaming thanked staff for their work on the plan. Mr. Carlson stated our park system is recognized nationally. They both see the need for more awareness of what's offered and further research is needed regarding barriers. They suggested conversations with other parks on how to connect people with the parks and retain visitors. Mr. Vlaming added the need for creative ways to use green spaces. He urged staff to soften the language in the plan.

Nouka Yang – Little Earth of United Tribes

Ms. Yang explained the disparities among the 2000+ urban Indians in the region. She points out the high cost of transportation, parking, and entrance fees and the lack of culturally relevant programs.

Mary Ann – Eagan resident

Mary Ann commented on the lack of an overview of the natural resources in the plan. She would like to see some minimally developed recreation areas; a wilderness space without trails. She would like to explore more wild space in the region.

Chair Cunningham reminded the hearing participants the comment period will remain open until October 30, 2014

INFORMATION - none

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary