

Minutes

Metropolitan Council



Meeting Date: March 22, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Charlie Zelle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Cederberg, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Lilligren, District 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yassin Osman, District 8 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W. Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Barber, District 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 11 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council 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 Barber, seconded by Vento to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council. **Motion carried.**

Public Invitation

Tricia Severson addressed the Council regarding light rail transit. Sean Gosieski, Executive Director, Resilient Cities and Communities, spoke about the Corcoran neighborhood and Hi-Lake Station, as well as a climate implementation grant through Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 1-2)

2023-64: That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize Minnesota Housing to release Land Bank-Twin Cities from its obligation to repay Council grant funds made available for the Strategic Land Acquisition for Affordable Housing Initiative, contingent on the Land Bank's: (a) submission of a final report to the Council that demonstrates use of the grant funds consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement; and (b) commitment to use the funding for the acquisition of strategic sites for affordable housing located in the seven-county metropolitan area.
2. Authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute agreements necessary to terminate the Land Bank's obligation to repay the Council funds and terminate the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with Minnesota Housing.

2023-67: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the pavement, bridge, system reliability and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) performance measure targets for the metropolitan area as shown in the business item.

It was moved by Johnson, seconded by W.T. Carter.

The date will be corrected on the Committee Report for business item 2023-67.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

Community Development

2023-37: That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Long Range Plan Amendment.
2. Require Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, prior to initiating any project at this location, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Vento.

Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager, Community Development, gave an overview of the Metropolitan Regional Park System as well as Park and Trail Long-Range Planning. The Council collaborates with 10 Regional Parks implementing agencies but does not own or operate any regional parks or trails. Regional parks are nature-based and provide significant greenspace and wildlife habitat; there are 56 regional parks and park preserves, which had over 65 million visits in 2021. The Council develops and implements the Regional Parks Policy Plan and reviews park and trail plans. This responsibility is delegated to the Council by the State Legislature. The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission consists of eight commissioners and a Chair and advises the Council on regional parks topics.

Council Members had comments regarding the role of the Council in comprehensive planning, equity and stakeholder feedback, deadlines, and their constituent contact regarding this issue. Council Member W. Toni Carter asked what the impact would be if the vote was delayed for additional community input. Emmett Mullin shared comments regarding the equity analysis requirement and the water management concerns related to the site. Ann Bloodhart, General Counsel, shared Minnesota Statute 473.313 which delegates park and trail plan review to the Council.

Council Member Chamblis moved to amend the original motion, with a second from Johnson, to include a third action:

Though the Council finds the proposed Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment consistent with Council policies, they want to send the message that they encourage the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to work with and partner with the community to address the needs of the community, including the loss and honoring the history of the regional park.

The motion to amend the original motion was seconded by Johnson. The motion to amend the motion carried. **Motion carried as amended.**

Environment

No reports

Management

No reports

Transportation

Reports on consent agenda.

Information

Quarterly Transitway Update

Nick Thompson, Director of Capital Programs, Metro Transit, began with an introduction to the METRO network: Gold Line BRT, Green Line Extension LRT, Purple Line BRT, and Blue Line Extension LRT. He also gave an overview of the major phases of transitway development. Each project is organized on a Project Office Concept, with a project director for each project. Staff from Metro Transit, County, MnDOT and project consultants are all co-located in each project office. Council and County governance structures exist for each project to provide policy input and approve project changes. Thompson, as well as Chris Beckwith, Blue Line Extension Project Director, and Alicia Vap, Gold Line Project Director, shared information about each transitway, with the exception of Purple Line. Purple Line staff had recently received updated information from the County and had not been able to add it to the presentation in time for the meeting. Project staff also shared major funding sources and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) information for each line. Sophia Ginis, Director of Community Affairs, Metro Transit, shared information about the engagement framework for each project.

Council members had questions and comments regarding the Transitway Advancement Policy, the work of engagement staff, displacement work, and the problems facing light rail transit and the Metro Transit Police Department.

Reports

Council Member Pacheco shared an update about the Equity Advisory Committee that occurred on March 21. Council Member Barber shared information about Transit Driver Appreciation Day events. Council Member Tyronne Carter shared that he visited the Green Line Operations Maintenance Facility (OMF). General Counsel Ann Bloodhart introduced herself to the new Council members.

The Chair and Regional Administrator did not have any reports.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 22, 2023.

Approved this 12 day of April 2023.

Council Contact:

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