

# Minutes

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** January 16, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2    |  |  |

## Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:03 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

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

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.** (Lindstrom was absent for the vote.)

## Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2024-6:** Veterans Memorial Greenway Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Schiela), Dakota County

**Proposed Action:** That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$568,655 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Dakota County to acquire a 10.62-acre parcel located at 4420 Dodd Road in Eagan for the Veterans Memorial Greenway Regional Trail.
  2. Allow the County to convey 3.2 acres of the property, valued at \$16,000, to the City of Eagan in exchange for a more efficient lake management approach and to save \$80,000 in assessments; retain a greenway corridor easement on approximately 0.14 acres of the conveyed property; and require a Council Agreement and Restrictive Covenant only on the easement portion of the conveyed property.
  3. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.
2. **2024-7:** Rush Creek Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Segal), Three Rivers Park District

**Proposed Action:** That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$801,150 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to acquire an 11.4-acre parcel located at 15406 Territorial Road in Maple Grove, MN, for the Rush Creek Regional Trail.
2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Carter, Toni.

**Motion carried.**

## Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

1. **2024-8:** Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment and Cedar Lake Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment

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

1. Approve the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment.
2. Approve the Cedar Lake Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment.
3. Require Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager prior to initiating any construction.
4. Advise Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to consider implementing the recommendations for solar resources and transportation in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.

Vento stated there was not a quorum for the January 4th Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting but that there was uniformed support with this item moving forward. Metropolitan Council Community Development Planning Analyst Colin Kelly presented this item. Vento stated there was a robust discussion with parks staff on issues that were raised by community members on encroachment and access issues and commissioners felt reassured that staff would reengage the community before taking action. Carter, Toni asked how we make certain that we are mitigating the difficulty in ensuring all different voices are represented. Kelly stated there is an equity analysis requirement that has specific questions about how the community has been engaged and the city has built into their community engagement policy a commitment to continue to engage as the project moves forward. Wulff asked for clarification on the safety concerns expressed. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff Emma Pachuta responded that the two concerns were related to safety in the natural areas (could add lights, wayfinding and formalizing trails) and the occurrence of people profiling other community members.

**Motion carried.**

2. **2024-12 JT:** City of Empire 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Sewer Plan, Review File 22304-1

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Review Record and take the following actions:

### Recommendations of the Community Development Committee

1. Authorize the City of Empire to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
2. Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Water Supply.

Metropolitan Council Community Development Planning Analyst Patrick Boylan presented this item. Council members asked if there were any additional townships that were on the verge of becoming a city. Boylan and Metropolitan Council Community Development Executive Director Lisa Barajas couldn't think of any.

**Motion carried.**

- 3. **2024-25:** City of North Oaks Red Forest Way South Comprehensive Plan Amendment Overview and Request to Schedule a Public Hearing, Review File 21796-3

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council establish a date to conduct a public hearing to discuss and receive comment on a proposed plan modification for the City of North Oaks Red Forest Way South Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The hearing will take place at the Community Development Committee meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Council Community Development Regional Planning Senior Manager Angela Torres provided background on the plan modification process and Planning Analyst Erik Wojchik presented this item. Lindstrom asked if the city would present at the public hearing. Metropolitan Council Community Development Executive Director Lisa Barajas stated the city intends to attend the public hearing and present their case. Several Council members stated their interest for the city’s presentation to understand where they are having issues with accepting one of the alternatives. Carter, Toni asked if there were precedents with past exceptions when a city has decided to not take up other options. Torres stated the process requires the Council and city to come to an agreement, there is no exception. Torres continued that the next step is this public hearing, which is a very rare step. Barajas stated that the Council has initiated the modification plan process a couple of times, but it has always resolved itself before it’s gotten to a Council resolution and that at any time in the process an agreement can be made with the city to avoid a Council resolution.

**Motion carried.**

- 4. **2024-26:** Funding Recommendation for 2023 Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) Homeownership Program

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

- 1. Award one homeownership Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) grant to the City of Minneapolis for the ReFresh Minneapolis project totaling \$74,966.
- 2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council

Metropolitan Council Community Development Livable Communities Senior Planner Ashleigh Johnson presented this item. Chamblis asked for clarification if this project has changed as the numbers seem different from the past. Johnson stated that the project has gotten more refined city the application as submitted, resulting in the difference in amounts that was in previous documents.

**Motion carried.**

**Information**

- 1. Draft LCA Fund Distribution Plan for 2024

Metropolitan Council Community Development Regional Planning Senior Manager Sarah Berke and Planning Analyst Hannah Gary presented this item. Berke clarified for Council members that the timeline for the larger program changes would be for 2025, not 2024. Wulff stated that the changes for 2024 didn’t appear to minor and asked that the timeline be adjusted to allow for a more robust discussion at the next Community Development committee meeting. Council members stated their desire to obtain certain information regarding this program and historical data to help guide the discussion. Chair Lilligren stated a larger portion of the next meeting with be dedicated to this discussion.

**Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:49 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 January 16, 2024.

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### Council Contact:

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