

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Steet

Members Present:

- Chair, Robert Lilligren, D7
- Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D11
- 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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Wulff, to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-206** Funding Recommendations for 2023 Round One Livable Communities Act Pre-Development Grants (Hannah Gary 651-602-1633)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter that the Metropolitan Council Award six (6) Livable Communities Act Pre-Development Grants totaling \$898,600.

Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried.

Ms. Gary responded to Council Members' questions about how scoring and per-city funding limits translate into award recommendations, how the advance payment option may be used, how grant money flows through projects, and priorities for DBE and/or MCUB contractors. Council Members expressed interest in learning more about several projects including the financing model of the St. Louis Park EDA project, the co-living model for Saint Paul Little Mod, and how previous awards related to the Brooklyn Center project. Council Members raised questions about geographic distribution and per-city funding limits that will be discussed at the upcoming workshop on October 2.

Representatives from The CORA in Minneapolis, Affordable Commercial in Saint Louis Park, and Hamm's Brewery expressed their appreciation for Council support.

2. **2023-207** Funding Recommendations for 2023 Livable Communities Act Policy Development Grants (Hannah Gary 651-602-1633)

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Vento that the Metropolitan Council That the Metropolitan Council award three (3) Livable Communities Act Policy Development Grants totaling \$101,400.

Motion carried.

Committee members noted that two of the three recommendations are for policies relating to reducing parking requirements. Nancy Abts, an Associate Planning from the City of Fridley, addressed the Committee offering additional background on the impetus for this new policy direction. Discussion on this question centered around concerns about reduced parking and the potential impact. Committee members expressed appreciation for the geographic distribution of the funding recommendations, and asked for more data on what tools cities are using to address housing and to study the impact of funded policies.

A representative from the City of New Brighton expressed their thanks for Council support in furthering city goals.

Information

1. Regional Parks and Trails System 2024 Competitive Equity Grant Program Draft Notice of Funding Availability (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

Ms. Lee shared the key information from the draft Notice of Funding Availability and ask for feedback before finalizing the NOFA and bringing it back in October for approval.

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan commits the Council to develop a set-aside, competitive equity grant program to strengthen equitable use of the Regional Parks System. The Equity Grant Program was formally established in 2019 through a pilot program with capital funding that resulted in the awards for three Regional Park System equity projects. In 2021 the Council dedicated \$664,000 in Council bonds for capital projects and \$1,400,000 in parks interest earnings for programming or a mix of non-capital/capital projects. The competitive grant round resulted in the funding of 23 capital and non-capital projects.

Similar levels of funding have been set aside for the 2024 Competitive Equity Grant Program. \$658,000 is available in Council bonds for capital projects and \$1,410,000 in parks interest earnings is available for programming/non-capital. The interest earnings may be used for capital projects if funds remain after awarding programming projects, or for programming projects that have small capital components.

2. Annual Public Housing Agency Plan – Discussion of Public Comments (Terri Smith 651-602-1187; Stephanie Paulson 651-602-1584)

This information item provided a review of the public comments received and the proposed changes to the PHA Plan and Administrative Plan and received Committee feedback and direction on proposed changes.

The Public Housing Agency Plan is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for any agency administering the Housing Choice Voucher program. The Plan serves as a guide to the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) programs, policies, operations, and strategies for serving the needs of extremely and very low-income households. The document was open for public comment through August 31, 2023: DRAFT 2024 Metro HRA Annual PHA Plan.

The Administrative Plan is the Metro HRA's main policy document that becomes an attachment to the PHA Annual Plan, was also open for public comment: DRAFT 2023 Metro HRA Administrative Plan.

This Information Item will be followed by an action item at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:35 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 August 21, 2023.

Council Contact:

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