

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: June 16, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6
- Vice Chair, Toni Carter, D14
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8

- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Chai Lee, District 13

- Vacant, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excused

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council’s commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

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

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Council Member Lilligren.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of June 2, 2025, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent

1. 2025-125 Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Award (Wall), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Carter, that the Metropolitan:

1. Approve a grant of up to \$2,910,158 from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to acquire the West Park and East Park parcels totaling 1.4 acres located at 525 Malcolm Avenue South in Minneapolis, MN, for the Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail.

2. Authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreement and restrictive covenant on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried.

Staff responded to a question regarding the use of clean up funds explaining receiving permission for change.

Non-Consent

1. 2025-148 Funding Recommendations Round One Tax Base Revitalization Account Grants (Marcus Martin 651-602-1054)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Lindstrom, that the Metropolitan Council

1. Award seven Livable Communities Tax Base Revitalization Account grants totaling \$2,023,700 as shown in Table 1 below.
2. Authorize its Executive Director of Community Development to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Table 1. Tax Base Revitalization Account Grant Recommendations		
Richfield	American Legion	\$35,000
Inver Grove Heights EDA	Dickman Trail Industrial Development	\$29,300
Saint Paul	The Beasley	\$150,000
Minneapolis	NE Green Campus Expansion	\$965,900
Richfield HRA	Penn Station	\$303,200
Minneapolis	The Curve Nordeast	\$477,000
South Saint Paul EDA	Wakota Crossing	\$471,800
TOTAL		\$2,023,700

Motion carried.

The Committee asked about the differences between the recommended and requested award amounts. For recommendations over the requested amount, staff explained the coordination with other local brownfield funding partners to fill financial gaps that partners are not expected to fill. In one instance, funding was reduced to match eligible costs confirmed during the evaluation. The Committee also asked where additional details can be found about individual projects, the use of the unawarded funding balance, and the typical number of awards in recent grant cycles.

2. 2025-149 City of Lake St. Croix Beach 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Review File 22399-1



(Emma Dvorak 651-602-1399)

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

1. Authorize Lake St. Croix Beach to place its 2040 Comprehensive Plan into effect.
Advise the City to: Revise the City’s forecasts downward as shown in Table 1 and establish revised 2050 forecasts as described in the attached Review Record.
2. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Regional Parks and Trails.

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions.

3. 2025-150 Funding Recommendations for 2025 Community Tree Planting Grants (Gillian Greenberg 651-602-1726)

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Lindstrom, that the Metropolitan Council award 14 Community Tree Planting Grants totaling \$2,500,000 as shown in Table 1 below.

<i>Table 1. Recommended Applications and Funding Amounts</i>		
City of Anoka	Sunny Acres Area Urban forest Restoration and Enhancement Project	\$83,100
City of Blaine	Remove and replace 39 ash trees in priority neighborhoods within the city	\$94,880
City of Brooklyn Center	Brooklyn Center Right-of-Way and Heritage Center Canopy Improvements	\$142,350
City of Coon Rapids	Grow Urban Coon Rapids	\$94,500
City of Maple Grove	Rice Lake Neighborhood Ash Tree Project	\$82,825
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Minneapolis target area ash tree removal completion and replanting project	\$454,407
City of Minnetonka	Minnetonka Tree Planting Program	\$277,215
City of Oakdale	Diseased ash tree removal and replacement tree planting in public spaces and rights of way	\$174,543
City of Ramsey	Majesty of the Commons – Ash Replacement and Community Collaboration	\$84,255
Ramsey County	Pierce Butler Route Tree Canopy Improvement Project	\$171,050
City of Roseville	City of Roseville EAB Mitigation	\$251,796



City of Saint Louis Park	Park Canopy Restoration Project	\$72,383
City of Vadnais Heights	Vadnais Heights Urban Canopy Program	\$220,196
City of West Saint Paul	West St. Paul Tree Canopy Improvement Project	\$296,500

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions.

Information

1. 2025 Housing Choice Voucher Waitlist Opening Updates (Caitlin Magistad 651-602-1212; Ryane Ottengheime Leifheit 651-602-1869)

The Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) opened its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waiting list from Wednesday, April 9th through Wednesday, April 16th, 2025. The HCV program provides rental assistance to households with very-low incomes.

During the week-long opening, the Metro HRA received 11,172 applications. 1000 families were randomly selected for placement onto the HCV waiting list. Council staff plan to provide updates on the 2025 HCV waitlist opening including:

- Applications
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Random selection
- Analysis & Updates

2. 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment: Modernizing Mapping (Tracey Kinney 651-602-1029; Kevin Phan 651-602-1333)

The Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project proposes to amend Section 2, System Plan, of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan, to establish the: Regional Parks and Trails System Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset as the Met Council’s primary reference on file and Make the Section 2 System Plan boundaries consistent with the GIS dataset.

While no policy changes are being proposed as part of this Policy Plan amendment, this proposed action seeks to formalize the Met Council’s use of the GIS dataset to support approved regional park and trail long-range plans, as well as reconcile long-range plan and data inconsistencies.

Regional park and trail boundaries are tracked through a mapping system comprised of approved long-range plans, proposed GIS data, and legal land records. Regional park and trail long-range plans are high-level documents that define a regional unit’s boundaries, acquisition, development, and operation of regional facilities. Park and trail long-range plans will continue to serve as the vehicle for Council approvals. The GIS data will work in concert with the approved long-range plans providing a higher-level of detail for use with planning questions and acreage calculations. The GIS data is updated annually in partnership with the ten regional park implementing agencies as part of the Operations and Maintenance Program fund distribution process. The legal land records will continue to serve as the basis for land exchanges, acquisitions, and boundary adjustments.

The Regional Parks and Trails System has grown substantially since its inception in 1974,



making it necessary to embrace technological advancements and policy plan process improvements.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:20 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 June 16, 2025.

Council contact:

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