

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Monday, August 19, 2013

Committee Members Present: Cunningham, Commers, Chávez, Elkins, Kramer, Munt, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Rummel

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, August 19, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2013 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2013-164 Public Hearing – 2014 Annual Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan

HRA Manager Terri Smith provided a background to the Community Development Committee on the PHA plan. Chair Cunningham opened the public hearing with some instructions and details. No one from the public chose to speak.

The PHA Plan is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and serves as a guide to the Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (Metro HRA) programs, policies, operations and strategies for serving the needs of very low income households. The Plan is intended to be a convenient source of information for program participants, HUD and the general public.

There are two parts to the PHA Plan: the 5 year Plan which each PHA submits to HUD once every 5th PHA fiscal year describing the mission of the agency and its goals and objectives, and the Annual Plan, which is submitted to HUD every year covering current policies and procedures of the PHA. The Metro HRA submitted its 5 Year Plan in 2009 for the period 2010-2014. The public hearing is for the required 2014 Annual PHA Plan and it provides the public an opportunity to make comments on the Plan.

No motion required, closed hearing.

2013-242 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, Ramsey County (Jan Youngquist 651 602-1029)

Planning Analyst Jan Youngquist presented the report to the Community Development Committee.

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Elkins, that the Metropolitan Council approve the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment. **Motion carried.**

Ramsey County has submitted an amendment to the master plan for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to expand the trail corridor. The expansion area is located within the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) site in Arden Hills. The amendment adds an additional 60 acres to the wildlife corridor and will facilitate the construction of a trailhead entry driveway from County Road I. A 150 foot wide corridor will also be added that will create a trail connection from the existing trail through the TCAAP site to the Highway 96 Regional Trail. The property will be transferred at no cost from the US Army to Ramsey County through the

National Park Service, with the stipulation that Ramsey County complete soil remediation to make the site suitable for recreational development.

The committee had no questions.

INFORMATION

1. HRA 2013 HUD Budget Update – HRA Manager Terri Smith presented information on the HRA 2013 HUD Budget.

A committee member asked about waivers, and Smith responded HUD grants waivers all the time. Another member asked for ideas from other HRA's, is their communication. Smith confirmed regular communications with HRA colleagues. She also stating some HRA's have subsidies left over and all HRA's stopped issuing vouchers.

2. Parks Unit proposed research: Underutilization of the Regional Parks System among Communities of Color

Senior Parks Researcher Raintry Salk presented information to the committee on the visitors of regional parks by ethnic groups, the motivations of visitors, constraints, and differences among various racial and ethnic groups.

A committee member stated real world examples of barriers for some visitors; 2nd job, lack of transportation. Another member asked if the age of visitors was researched. Some regional parks have minority populations consisting of mostly children. Salk responded researching minors is difficult. Current report reflects visitors aged 18 and over. Other committee members commented on the large number of children visiting the regional parks; school field trips, family outings, day care.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary