

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, October 16, 2017

Committee Members Present: Cunningham - Chair, Barber, Chavez, Commers, Dorfman, Elkins, Kramer, Munt, Wulff

Committee Members Absent:

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 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the Monday, October 2, 2017 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS - Consent

2017-225 Adoption of Utility Allowance Schedule for Metro HRA Rent Assistance Programs (Terri Smith 651 602-1187)

The Metropolitan Council must establish and maintain a utility allowance schedule for use in its rental assistance programs. In calculating rents for units leased under the Housing Choice Voucher and other rental assistance programs, the housing authority must consider the cost of tenant-paid utilities. A utility allowance is a credit for tenant-paid utilities and is used to determine the family share of the total housing costs (rent + utilities). The allowances are based on average consumption for an energy conservative household. The federal regulations require a schedule revision if there has been a change, up or down, of ten percent (10%) or more in any utility rate since the last time the allowance for that utility was revised. The Council last approved allowance changes in October 2016. Staff completed the annual review of current utility rates for natural gas, electric, propane, fuel oil, water, sewer and trash collection along with average prices for appliances sometimes provided by tenants as required by the lease. The review resulted in one utility rate with a change of ten percent (10%) or more. Fuel Oil increased by 12%. The change is reflected in the attached Utility Allowance Chart. All other allowances remain the same.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approve the attached Utility Allowance Schedule for use in the Housing Choice Voucher and other rent assistance programs effective November 1, 2017.

Motion carried.

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action without questions or discussion as part of its consent agenda.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent

2017-214 Authorization to Amend 2017 Unified Budget - Fourth Quarter Amendment – Senior Finance Planner Deb Jenson presented the report to the Community Development Committee. It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 operating budget in accordance with the attached tables.

Description	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget	\$ Change
Saint Paul – Grant #SG2013-109	\$138,000	0	(\$138,000)
Saint Paul – Grant #SG2013-110	132,000	0	(132,000)
Dakota County – Grant #SG2013-144	200,000	0	(200,000)
Dakota County – Grant #SG2013-145	768,000	0	(768,000)
Dakota County – Grant #SG2013-147	300,000	0	(300,000)
Dakota County – Grant #SG2014-010	125,000	0	(125,000)
Carver County – Grant #SG2014-041	297,000	0	(297,000)
Ramsey County – Grant #SG2014-048	380,000	0	(380,000)
Ramsey County – Grant #SG2014-049	36,000	0	(36,000)
Ramsey County – Grant #SG2014-051	240,000	0	(240,000)
City of Oakdale – Grant #SG-03371	150,000	0	(150,000)
Three Rivers Park District – Grant #SG-03665	3,769,000	0	(3,769,000)
Total	\$6,535,000	0	(\$6,535,000)

This amendment closes twelve Regional Parks grants, totaling \$6.5 million and accounts for timing changes among two of the Legacy projects approved on the second quarter amendment.

Motion carried.

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

2017-227 2017 Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development Grant Recommendations

Senior Planner Ryan Kelley and LCAC Committee member James Garrett presented the recommendations to the Community Development Committee.

Advancing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along existing and planned transitways is a priority of the Metropolitan Council. The TOD grant category supports development activities in identified TOD areas. The Council adopted Livable Communities Act (LCA)-TOD program guidelines, criteria, schedule and evaluation process as part of the 2017 Fund Distribution Plan (FDP). The Fund Distribution Plan requires a two-step evaluation process for Livable Communities Demonstration Account TOD (LCDA-TOD) Development and Tax Base Revitalization Account TOD (TBRA-TOD) Cleanup grants. After a technical review by an interdivisional Council staff team (Step One), the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC) reviews projects that meet the minimum Step One scoring threshold (Step Two). The LCAC funding recommendations are presented to the Community Development Committee for consideration.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins, that the Metropolitan Council (1) award four Livable Communities Demonstration Account Transit Oriented Development grants as follows, totaling \$4,550,000, and (2) authorize its Community Development Division Director to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council:

Recommended Projects	Applicant	Points	LCDA-TOD
PLACE	St. Louis Park	112.72	\$850,000
38 th St Station	Minneapolis	106.80	\$1,500,000
Elevate	Eden Prairie	96.16	\$750,000
NW University & Dale	St. Paul	85.83	\$1,450,000
Total Recommended			\$4,550,000
Total Available			\$4,550,000
Total Remaining			\$0

Motion carried.

The Committee complimented the good mix of projects. The Committee asked Mr. Kelley to explain funding from TOD program and relinquishments from unfinished projects, and levies of the LCDA programs. The Committee discussed the costs of delays in recommendations.

INFORMATION

1. MetroStats on Disparities by Ability Status – Senior Researcher Baris Gumus-Dawes provided information on the MetroStats report on disparities by ability to the Community Development Committee. In the Twin Cities region, people with disabilities have employment, economic well-being, and housing outcomes that compare unfavorably to those of people without disabilities. This report summarizes the demographics of the region’s people with disabilities and highlights the existing disparities by ability status. To assess the degree to which people with disabilities can access economic opportunities, the report discusses disparities in work status, earnings, and poverty rates. It also focuses on inequities in access to stable and affordable housing by examining disparities in home ownership and housing cost burden.

The Committee asked Ms. Gumus-Dawes how the numbers were achieved. Ms. Gumus-Dawes explained the data is on the individual with a disability not household data. Committee discussed the barriers such as no access to Metro Mobility, lack of reliability, and the forecast for increases in people with disabilities and the impact on the region.

2. Regional Parks Ambassador Program – Senior Outreach Coordinator Celina Martina presented the information item to the Community Development Committee.

Thrive MSP 2040 states the Council will strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents, across race, ethnicity, income and ability. As part of this effort, the Council established the Parks Ambassador Program and in January 2017, hired a Senior Community Outreach Coordinator, Celina Martina, to lead the program. Working in partnership with key community organizations and our ten park implementing agencies, this program seeks to increase awareness and use of our rich system by bringing parks to the people. The purpose of this information item is to provide an overview of the first nine months of the program, highlighting some of the activities, events, and key partnerships.

The Committee had questions regarding how new residents, especially immigrants, do not feel welcomed or safe at regional parks and how to encourage visitors. Ms. Martina explained the plans and ideas to develop relationships with park agencies, school districts, and add programs; park system awareness, cultural & Art program, along with existing outdoor activities. The Committee also inquired about an evaluation plan or a metrics of success and true engagement to bring in non-visitors. Regional Parks Manger Emmett Mullin responded a plan is being discussed measuring output vs. outcomes, goals, and scale of regions.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary