

# Minutes

Community Development Committee



**Meeting Date:** November 7, 2022

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Steet

## Members Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D7  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Susan Vento, D11 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judy Johnson, District 1     | <input type="checkbox"/> Abdirahman Muse, District 8           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16     |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present                    |

## 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.

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Consent Business

1. **2022-284** French Regional Park Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Chee Yang 651-602-4149)

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council approve Three Rivers Park District's French Regional Park Master Plan.

### Motion carried.

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

## Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-285 SW:** Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail, Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (McMenomy), Dakota County (Jessica Lee 651-602-1621)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council approve a grant of up to \$187,860 to Dakota County to acquire a 5.72-acre easement on the McMenomy property, located at 120th Street West in Rosemount, for Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail. **Motion carried.**

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

2. **2022-288** Adoption of Payment Standards for Metro HRA Rent Assistance Program (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council adopt payment standards as shown in Table 1 for the Housing Choice Voucher and other

rent assistance programs effective January 1, 2023. **Motion carried.**

Council Members inquired about the impact of the reduction of time to find placement and effects of increases in income, such as Social Security. Ms. Smith responded that the vouchers are issued for 120 days with extensions available under certain circumstances, and the average placement is 55 days. The Council Members expressed their support for the 100% option, appreciating the information and benchmarks to provide stable, safe housing.

3. **2022-289** Adoption of Utility Allowance Schedule for Metro HRA Rent Assistance Programs (Terri Smith 651-602-1187)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Johnson, that the Metropolitan Council approve the attached Utility Allowance Schedule for use in the Housing Choice Voucher and other rent assistance programs effective January 1, 2023. **Motion carried.**

Council Members acknowledged the rising utility costs and asked what triggers an update to utility rates? Ms. Smith explained the yearly review process and changes of 10% increases or decreases prompt a new schedule.

Council Members discussed the importance of included internet as a utility and other options for voucher holders.

4. **2022-290** Council's Comprehensive Plan Amendment Administrative Review Guidelines (Angela Torres 651-602-1669)

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council revise the Council's *Comprehensive Plan Amendment Administrative Review Guidelines* as shown in Attachment 1 of this Report. **Motion carried.**

Council members Chamblis and Johnson asked clarifying questions about the impact of raising the eligibility threshold for the criterion related to net change of housing units from 100 to 250 units. Ms. Torres clarified that the administrative review process does not change regional minimum densities established in Thrive and emphasized that critical policy issues or policy inconsistencies continue to be reviewed by the Committee. Council member Johnson asked if local governments could appeal an eligibility determination and request review by the full Council. Torres confirmed that the determinations of eligibility are made at the staff level and added that local governments typically request a faster review preferring the administrative review process. Council member Wulff offered context about the need for flexibility for cities to adjust to changing conditions.

## Information

1. Community Development Grants – Overview and Annual Impact (Heather Giesel 651-602-1715)

The purpose of this information item was to provide an overview of the Community Development grant programs, as well as a review of the annual impact of the grant programs during calendar year 2021. The presentation will discuss grant programs for Livable Communities, Regional Parks and Trails, and Local Planning Assistance.

The annual review will focus on high level funding impacts, with highlights on select projects identified by program and grant staff. Grant staff anticipate sharing a similar presentation annually in future years to recognize the important work being accomplished around the region as the result of Community Development grant programs.

2. Climate action work plan strategies discussion (Lisa Barajas 651-602-1895 and Eric

Wojchik 651-602-1330)

At the regular Metropolitan Council meeting on [October 12, 2022](#), Council staff initiated the review process for the draft Climate Action Work Plan. Council staff reviewed the overall structure of the work plan, including the five commitments and strategies to accompany them. The presentation included a high-level summary of what staff have heard so far from external engagement as well as next steps for additional standing committee review of the proposed action.

At the Community Development Committee, Council staff focused the discussion on the proposed actions in the matrix that is posted with the agenda. Council staff sought the Committee's feedback on the proposed actions related to Community Development, and specifically have the following questions for consideration:

- Do you have questions or concerns about any of the actions?
- Is there anything missing?
- Are there actions that appear to be more critical than others?
- Do you have questions about the capacity and resources needed to execute the actions?
- Other questions or thoughts that Council Members would like to share?

### **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 November 14, 2022.

Approved this 21 day of November 2022.

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#### **Council Contact:**

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