

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Committee Members Present: **Natalie Steffen, Chair; Georgeanne Hilker; Daniel Wolter; Richard Aguilar; Sherry Broecker**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Steffen called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Hilker seconded by Broecker, to approve the agenda and change the order of business items. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

Steve Dornfeld, Director of Public Affairs for the Metropolitan Council informed the Committee about the upcoming video streaming of the committee meetings in the Robert Street Chambers, starting next month. He encouraged the Council Member to use their microphones and due to the limited camera positions not to spread out too far at the Council table. Also, staff members responding to the Committee are encouraged to respond from the presentation table, which will aid the camera operator Greg Ricci. Mr. Dornfeld explained the advantages of video streaming including the ability to index separate presentations to Committee agenda items and post updates of projects such as Northstar, Central Corridor, Regional economy, etc. Chair Steffen asked if Heywood is equipped with this video feature and Mr. Dornfeld responded no, Heywood is not equipped, however the Transportation meetings for the first half of the year will be held at the Robert Street location therefore those meetings will be video recorded.

BUSINESS

2009-2 City of St. Mary's Point 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update Review File No. 20383-1

Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, presented the report and the proposed actions to the Community Development Committee that the Metropolitan Council adopts the attached Review Record and takes the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee:

1. Authorize the City of St. Mary's Point to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect without any plan modifications;
2. Change the planning area designation of the City from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential in the *2030 Regional Development Framework*.
3. Remind the City that it needs to forward to the Council the date when the watershed organizations approved the local surface water management plan (LSWMP).
4. Remind the City to submit a copy of the City Council Resolution adopting its Update to the Council;
5. Remind the City that Minnesota Statutes 473.864 require the City to formally adopt the Update, along with any required modifications, within nine months after the Council's final action and require the City to submit two copies of the adopted Update to the Council in a timely manner; and,

6. Remind the City that it is required to submit any updated ordinances and controls and its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) intended to implement the Update to the Council upon adoption.

Ms. Hanson explained the reasoning for changing the City's planning area designation from Diversified Rural to Rural Residential, clarifying the density requirements for each of the districts for the Committee. The Committee did not have any additional questions or discussion regarding the Update.

Broecker moved, seconded by Hilker that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Community Development Committee recommendations.

The motion carried.

2009-1 City of North St Paul Comprehensive Plan Update, Review File No. 20366-1

Tori Dupre, Senior Planner presented the Comprehensive Plan Update to the Community Development Committee in which the Metropolitan Council adopts the attached Review Record and takes the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee:

1. Authorize the City of North St. Paul to put its Comprehensive Plan Update into effect with no plan modifications.
2. Remind the City that Minnesota Statutes 473.864 require it to formally adopt the Comprehensive Plan Update after the Council's final action and require the City to submit two copies of the adopted Update to the Council for its records.
3. Remind the City to submit a copy of the City Council resolution adopting the Update to the Council for its records.
4. Remind the City that it is required to submit to the Council upon adoption any updated ordinances and controls intended to implement the Update
5. Advise the City that once the WMP is approved, the City needs to review and update its ordinances to be consistent with the new standards and rules of the watershed districts. In addition, the ordinances need to be updated to be consistent with the NPDES construction general permit and MS4 permit requirements.
6. Advise the City that after it adopts the final version of the Water Management Plan, it needs to forward to the Council a copy of that final version along with the dates the Watershed Districts approved the plan and the date when the City adopted the final plan
7. Recommend that the City continue to implement conservation programs targeted at reducing residential water use.

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

1. Approve the City of North Saint Paul's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

Chair Steffen asked is the City of North Saint Paul in a formal watershed district, how are they approved and monitored. Ms Dupre explained they function as a watershed district, and the final resolution is forwarded to Met Council and BWSR (Board of Water and Soil Resources), and those plans are monitored by ES staff member Judy Sventek.

Mr. Thibault, representing the City of North St Paul commented on the power and benefits of comprehensive planning; especially in redevelopment of corridors, with an emphasis on implementation.

Hilker moved, seconded by Broecker that the Metropolitan Council adopts the recommendations of the Community Development Committee.

The motion carried.

2009-25 City of Bloomington comprehensive plan amendment for *5701 Green Valley Drive*, Review file No. 18103-23 (Denise Engen 651 602-1513)

Denise Engen, Senior Planner, presented the amendment, explaining to the committee that the Metropolitan Council should:

1. Allow the City of Bloomington to put the *Covington at Norman Pointe-5701 Green Valley Dr.* comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) into effect.
2. Find that the comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) does not change the City's forecasts.

The Chair asked for clarification on Council policy regarding reviewing CPAs for adopted 2020 plans. Community Development Director Peterson explained that that a CPA may be reviewed if it was submitted before the end of 2008, and that the City of Bloomington had "come in under the wire" by submitting the CPA before the end of the year. Staff presented a summary of the CPA and requested action. The Committee members had no further questions.

Wolter moved, seconded by Hilker that the Metropolitan Council

The motion carried.

2009-26 Guidelines for Mutual Agreement to Extend 120-Day Plan Review Period (Susan Hoyt 651 602-1330; Phyllis Hanson, 651 602-1566)

Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, presented the guidelines for authorizing requests from local governments for extensions to the 120 day review period for Comprehensive Plan Updates and Amendments.

Metropolitan Council adopts the following guideline:

The Metropolitan Council will consider requests for extensions to the statutory 120-day review period for Comprehensive Plans, Updates and Amendments when a request is submitted in writing by a local government's chief appointed or elected official or his/her designee. The extension request must state the reason for the request. The Council authorizes its Director of Community Development to agree, on behalf of the Council, to extensions with any reasonably necessary conditions.

Since it is in the best interest of the Council and local governments to resolve issues that will result in plan modifications if the issues go unresolved or cannot be addressed in a timely manner, the proposed guideline/policy will help ensure 120-day review extension requests are considered in a consistent and efficient manner. The proposed guideline/policy clarifies that a chief elected or appointed local government official or his/her designee who has the authority to request an extension on behalf of the local government and the Council's Director of Community Development may mutually agree, on behalf of their respective units, to extend the 120-day review period. The Director of Community Development has the authority to deny the request if it is not in the Council's best interest. If denied, a local government can request an extension from the Council's governing body.

Hilker moved, seconded by Broecker that the Metropolitan Council adopt the guidelines for authorizing requests from local governments for extensions to the 120 day review period for Comprehensive Plan Updates and Amendments.

The motion carried.

Chair Steffen questioned the notification process, ensuring city officials, planners are notified. Ms. Hanson explained to the Committee the notification process.

2008-4 Request for Regional Parks CIP reimbursement consideration of \$300,000 for development at North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

Arne Stefferud explained the reimbursement request for the North Mississippi Regional Park requesting the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing \$300,000 to the Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch in North Mississippi Regional Park when that amount of interest has been earned on the Council's park bonds in accordance with State law.

On January 6, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission unanimously approved the recommendation. There is no known opposition to the MPRB's request.

The Committee asked why the Park Board was seeking reimbursement consideration approval for this project since State law required the Metropolitan Council to grant its interest earnings on park bonds for acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park. Council staff replied that the Park Board was following the Council's policy on reimbursement, which requires a park agency to seek approval of a project before work begins. In this case, there isn't \$300,000 of interest earnings available to grant to the Park Board for the project. The Park Board wants to be reimbursed with \$300,000 of interest earnings when it becomes available in the future.

Wolter moved, seconded by Broecker that the Metropolitan Council

The motion carried.

2009-5 Mississippi River Regional Trail master plan amendment realigning trail from Hastings to Spring Lake Park Reserve , Dakota County (Referral No. 15553-5) (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, explained the amendment and recommends the Metropolitan Council review and approve the Mississippi River Regional Trail master plan amendment realigning the trail from Hastings to Spring Lake Park Reserve, Dakota County (Referral No. 15553-5).

Wolter moved, seconded by Broecker that the Metropolitan Council approves the Mississippi River Regional Trail master plan amendment realigning the trail from Hastings to Spring Lake Park Reserve, Dakota County.

The motion carried.

2009-6 Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant request to purchase land for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst, presented a request for the Metropolitan Council to authorize a grant of \$17,400 from the State Acquisition Grant Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Dakota County to partially finance the acquisition of the 1.1 acre Urban parcel as part of Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The grant should be financed with \$10,440 from the 2008 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation and \$6,960 of Metropolitan Council bonds.

The Committee asked how many parcels of private land remained to be acquired in Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Council staff replied that about four or five parcels remain to be acquired.

Wolter moved, seconded by Broecker that the Metropolitan Council authorize from the State Acquisition Grant Account to finance the acquisition of 1.1 acre Urban parcel as part of Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

The motion carried

2009-7 Change in scope of Grant SG-2006-125 to purchase land for Eagle Lake Regional Park, Three Rivers Park District (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

Arne Stefferud explained the request for a change in scope and requests the Metropolitan Council authorizes a change in the scope of grant SG-2006-125 to partially finance the acquisition of the Weegman property for Eagle Lake Regional Park and directs Council staff to execute an amendment to the grant agreement that reflects this change in scope.

The Committee asked if the Metropolitan Council had approved grant scope changes that diverted the grant from one regional park to another. Council staff replied that the Council had approved such grant scope changes. The grant agreement allows a park agency to change the scope of the grant if it finds it can't accomplish the project initially envisioned for the grant. The park agency can propose a change in scope of the grant to another project as long as the new project is consistent with a Council-approved park master plan. The change in scope of a grant does not increase the amount a park agency receives as its share of a regional parks capital improvement program.

Broecker moved, seconded by Hilker that the Metropolitan Council

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

Annual Update of Forecast Revisions – [Interim revisions to Council's forecasts](#) (Todd Graham 651 602-1322)

Todd Graham, Research Analyst, presented a review of interim revisions to the Metropolitan Council's forecasts. Since the issuance of System Statements in 2005, interim forecast revisions have been limited to those initiated by local government request or associated with Council action items. Interim revisions are bundled with Committee and Council actions on Comprehensive Plan Updates. Steffen questioned the accuracy of forecasting especially the 2030 plan and housing needs of a million more people. Mr. Graham responded the interim, one-city-at-a-time revisions are distinct from major, regionwide revisions initiated by Council's forecasts staff. More cities are requesting additional households and employment in 2030. Major, regionwide, research-based revisions will occur in 2010-11 (after conclusion of the Plan Updates cycle) and could revise downward our regional expectations.

Park Visitor Origin Survey (John Kari, 651-602-1548)

John Kari, Planning Analyst, and Jay Schafer, consultant from IAG presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Park Visitor Origin Survey results. The survey sampling plan was explained to the Committee, including baseline data, the sampling size, focus groups, and focused questionnaires in multiple languages. Chair Steffen asked about the sampling size, which surveyed fewer people. Mr. Schafer explained the differing sample design, due to stretching survey dollars, fewer sites were surveyed, and the survey contained fewer questions. Mr. Kari explained the sample size meets the requirements based on research of comparable studies of the DNR and University of Minnesota.

Council Member Aguilar questioned the minority use data, based on other research, are focus groups, which include minorities, included and is the minority media being utilized. Mr. Kari, informed the Committee the survey design was developed with assistance of the Council's Office of Diversity regarding under representation of minority groups, and assured the Committee data collected from focus groups with minority groups included.

Chair Steffen questioned the minority use is higher in City parks versus Regional Parks. Mr. Stefferud explained the different uses of the parks accounts for different groups of visitors.

Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) Report (Phyllis Hanson 651 602-1566)

Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, provided an update on the current status of the Comprehensive Plan Updates and their submittals. One hundred six Updates have been received, 10 Comprehensive Plan Updates have been reviewed, 19 additional that are complete moving forward for review, 28 identified as incomplete, processing 46 additional letters for this week most will be incomplete, and 70 extensions.. Chair Steffen questioned if the Surface Water management plan contributes to the incomplete status. Ms. Hanson confirmed the water management plan is not part of the complete or

incomplete review requirements. Chair Steffen inquired about departure letters issued, and is a public hearing required. Ms. Hanson explained one departure letter has been mailed and a public hearing will be scheduled during the February 17th regular Community Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary