

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, April 4, 2011

Committee Members Present: **Gary Cunningham, Chair; Jon Commers, Vice-Chair; Steven T. Chávez, Steven Elkins, Richard Kramer, Jennifer Munt, Roxanne Smith, Wendy Wulff**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Cunningham called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Kramer seconded by Munt, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

ORIENTATION INFORMATION

Livable Communities Act Orientation Paul Burns

Livable Communities Manager Paul Burns presented to the Community Development Committee an overview, providing information on all the programs within the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act; Legislative history, participation requirements, goals, Annual Fund Distribution Plan, Accounts, and program outcomes.

The Community Development committee questioned Mr. Burns and staff regarding housing goals and needs numbers, and the available funding for the different accounts. Mr. Burns and the Community Development Director Guy Peterson explained to the committee the process for acquiring and analyzing the affordable housing need numbers. And Mr. Burns explained the available funding and applicants for LHIA, TBRA, LCDA, and LAAND grants.

BUSINESS

2011-90 LCA Fund Distribution Plan

Livable Communities Manager Paul Burns presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council approve the 2011 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. **The motion carried.**

Livable Communities Manager Paul Burns presented an overview of the 2011 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. The Plan sets out the funding amounts, timetables and funding criteria for the Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA), the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA), the Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA) and the Land Acquisition for Affordable New Development (LAAND) loan program.

He also highlighted several changes to the Livable Communities programs proposed by Council staff for 2011, including longer grant terms, the requirement that projects catalyzed by the grants be commenced rather than completed within the grant term, ability to provide a two-year grant term extension, increased emphasis in evaluation for projects located within a Transit Improvement Areas and on the applicant community's Housing Performance Scores. Patricia Nauman, from Metro Cities, told the Committee her organization supports the changes proposed by staff.

After discussion, the Committee voted to approve the 2011 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

2011-91 LCA Grant Amendment Procedures – Revision of terms and extension guidelines

Beth Reetz, Director of Housing and Livable Communities presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council:

change all active Livable Communities Demonstration Account Development, Tax Base Revitalization Account Contamination Cleanup and Local Housing Incentives Account grants awarded in 2009 and 2010 with an initial term of 2 years to a term of 3 years, and

change the requirement that the Project must be completed to the requirement that the Project must only be commenced within the grant term, and

revise the Livable Communities Act (LCA) Grant Amendment Procedures to reflect a change in the term of extensions to LCA grant agreements as attached. **The motion carried.**

Beth Reetz, Director of Housing and Livable Communities, gave an overview of the reasons why staff is proposing changes to the procedures for Livable Communities grant extension requests. These changes are consistent with changes staff recommended in the 2011 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. She also pointed out suggested changes to the Proposed Action in this Business Item and the Grant Amendment Procedures to respond to comments received from a participating city and from further staff review of the status of active grants.

Committee members asked questions about the impact of these changes and the wording of the procedure. It was requested that at a future time, staff bring to the Committee additional language for inclusion in the Procedures to address an applicant's opportunity to appeal a staff rejection of an extension request. After discussion and amendments to language in the Business Item, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Action as amended.

INFORMATION

Regional Development Framework (Ann Beckman 651 602-1669 & John Kari 651 602-1548)

Regional Systems & Growth Strategic manager Ann Beckman and Planning Analyst John Kari presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Community Development Committee on the 2030 Regional Development Framework. The presentation provided an overview of the history of the Regional Growth policy, Council roles, Regional Planning Cycle, Planning areas, Service areas and Densities, goals, benchmarks and Framework adoption.

The Community Development Committee questioned Ms. Beckman and Mr. Kari on the density patterns around the region. Specifically, development patterns with mixed housing to alleviate turnover of residents with changing household sizes.

Local Planning Assistance – Implementation of the Land Planning Act

(Due to the length of meeting this information item was pulled from agenda to be presented at the next Community Development meeting April 18th.)

Before adjourning Chair Cunningham revealed to the Committee his idea of changing the Community Development Committee meeting start time from 4:00 to 4:30, and asked the remaining members for their initial thoughts of the proposed new time. Committee members Smith & Wulff prefer the existing start time and Committee member Elkins prefers an earlier start time. Chair Cunningham stated a proposal to change the meeting start time will be a business item on the April 18th CDC agenda.

Chair Cunningham asked Community Development Director Guy Peterson to briefly introduce the 2011 Community Development Work plan to the committee. Mr. Peterson explained the plan is an outline of the regular business items, policy decisions, information presentations, and staff reports to expect throughout the year.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on April 18, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary