

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, November 21, 2011

Committee Members Present: **Gary Cunningham, Chair; Jon Commers, Vice-Chair; Steven T. Chávez, Steven Elkins, Richard Kramer, Jennifer Munt, Sandra Rummel, 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, November 21, 2011.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Kramer to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2011-324 City of Gem Lake 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update Review File No. 20710-1 Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan

LPA Manager Phyllis Hanson presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Advisory Comment and Review Record and take the following actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee:

1. Authorize the City of Gem Lake to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect.
2. Adopt the revised forecasts for the City of Gem Lake as detailed in Table 1 of the Review Record.
3. Advise the City to:
 - a. Revise the share of the affordable housing need indicated in the Update from 15 to 19 units prior to final adoption of the Update because of its revised growth forecast, and to consider the suggestion in the Housing section for increasing residential density in situations where it can facilitate the development of a specific affordable housing proposal.
 - b. Send to the Council the dates that the watershed organizations approve the LWMP, the date the City adopts the final LWMP, and a copy of the final adopted plan.
 - c. Participate in the Council's activities to monitor redevelopment in Developed communities.
 - d. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Transportation and Community and Individual Sewage Treatment Systems.

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

Approve the City of Gem Lake's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan. **The motion carried.**

2011-325 Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Referral No. 50014-1) Senior Planner Jan Youngquist presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Elkin that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Crystal Lake Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 50014-1).
2. Require that prior to development of new trail segments, final development plans be sent to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment to ensure the integrity of the interceptor system. **The motion carried.**

Chair Cunningham commented he is excited about the connection of the trail corridors.

2011-326 Spring Lake Regional Trail Master Plan, Scott County, Review File No. 50012-1
Senior Planner Tori Dupre presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Elkins moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council Approve the Spring Lake Regional Trail Master Plan. **The motion carried.**

Committee member asked what happens if a land owner doesn't want to sell. Ms Dupre explained the plan acknowledges willing sellers for most of the land acquisitions.

2011-323 LCA Affordable and Life Cycle Housing Goals Public Hearing – City of Orono
Chair Cunningham presented the public hearing, no one from the audience requested to speak, the public hearing will remain open until December 1, 2011.
No vote necessary. The committee had no questions.

2011-327 Reimbursement Consideration Request for Acquiring Land for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Washington County
Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve Washington County's regional parks capital improvement program (CIP) reimbursement consideration request for the costs to acquire the 4.86 acre Anderson property for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park under the following condition:

The regional park CIP imbursement will be considered by the Metropolitan Council only if none or a portion of the Anderson property is acquired by the City of Cottage Grove to meet its land exchange agreement obligations under the Washington County/City of Cottage Grove/Metropolitan Council land exchange agreement for Cottage Grove Regional Park. The reimbursement amount will be based on the pro-rated cost of the net amount of the Anderson property acquired by Washington County minus any land acquired by Cottage Grove to meet its obligation under the land exchange agreement. **The motion carried.**

The committee had no questions.

2011-328 Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Rule Change

Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council approve the following change to the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Rules effective immediately:

The maximum grant(s) available to a park agency is \$1.7 million from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account and \$1.7 million from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Acquisition Account during the July 1 to June 30 time period. **The motion carried.** The committee had no questions.

INFORMATION

2011 LCA Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) Funding Recommendations

Mayor Hamann and LCA manager Paul Burns presented to the committee an overview of the LCDA funding recommendations. The committee asked about the number of applicants, and timeline for projects. Both Mayor Hamann and Mr. Burns explained in increased need with the economic difficulties, and the increase in grant amounts due to less business development. The committee asked if there have been any improvements to the application process and if the projects are geographically diverse. Mayor Hamann explained the award timeline, and the amount of flexibility required for projects and the percentage of grants per metro area.

Amendment to the LCA 2011 Fund Distribution Plan –TOD grant category

Community Development Director Guy Peterson provided an overview of this new grant category of the LCA 2011 Fund Distribution Plan. The committee responded that TOD is very important, and was very interested in the guidelines, scoring methodology, and outreach with cities and developers. Mr. Peterson explained the TOD thresholds, and the affordable housing goals for the corridors. And that the cities are ready and eager to move forward working with private businesses. The committee commented the process has too many filters and hoops. Mr. Peterson clarified several cities requested category, need the standards. The applicants choose socially responsible non-profit private developers, which are private developers focused on affordable housing.

Affordable Housing Production numbers

Research manager Libby Starling presented a PowerPoint to the committee regarding Affordable Housing Production numbers. Ms. Starling provided information on annual affordability limits, number of affordable owner occupied and rental homes added in 2010, production of affordable housing, home sales prices, and housing cost burdens.

The committee asked about housing trends. Ms. Starling explained since the housing collapse, affordable housing stocks are at historic lows, the production of affordable housing is flat, and explained the increase in housing cost burden to residents.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on December 5, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary