

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 Robert Street N., St. Paul, MN 55101-1805
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, May 7, 2007

Committee Members Present: Rick Aguilar, Georgeanne Hilker, Annette Meeks, Natalie Steffen

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum present, Vice Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on May 7, 2007.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

The agenda was moved by Steffen and seconded by Hilker. Motion carried. The April 16 minutes of the Community Development Committee were moved by Hilker and seconded by Steffen. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Consent List

The consent list was moved by Steffen and seconded by Hilker. Motion carried.

2007-125 – Establish Date for Public Hearing, 2008 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan Revision

The Metropolitan Council conducts a public hearing to discuss and receive comment on the FY2008 PHA Plan on August 20, 2007, at 4 p.m., in the Chambers.

2007-164 – City of Woodbury Comprehensive Plan Amendment, High School – Bielenberg Center Land Use & MUSA Change

Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council allow the city of Woodbury to put the High School-Bielenberg Center Land Use and MUSA Change comprehensive plan amendment into effect with no required modifications.

2007-166 – City of Orono Comprehensive Plan Amendment – 875 Wayzata Blvd., Review File 18392-6

Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Allow the city to put the proposed comprehensive plan amendment into effect with no modifications.
2. Remind the city that it is required to participate in the Council's plat monitoring program and to submit annual reports to the Council as outlined on the Council's website:
<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/assistance/resources.htm#plat>
3. Advise the city that it must submit a copy of the intercommunity agreement with the city of Long Lake or Wayzata, whichever is applicable, when it is finalized and prior to connection of the property to the municipal sewer system.

Action Items

2007-163 – Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan, Acquisition Opportunity Grant Request, and Reimbursement Consideration for County Funding, Scott County

Arne Stefferud, planning analyst, reviewed the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan, acquisition opportunity grant request and reimbursement consideration for county funding.

Staff responded to questions about the Metro Greenways grant reduction stipulation; the conservation easement and potential changes in the current rules for obtaining an acquisition opportunity grant.

Steffen moved, seconded by Hilker, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan (Referral No. 20001-1), but amend the park boundary by deleting the 2.8 acre lot retained by the Cedar Lake Farm Resort property owner.
2. Authorize a grant of up to \$1 million from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Scott County to partially fund the acquisition of the Cedar Lake Farm Resort parcel for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.
3. Allow up to \$3,526,192 of the acquisition costs of the Cedar Lake Farm Resort parcel to be eligible for reimbursement consideration in a future regional parks CIP. The reimbursement amount will be

reduced by any DNR Metro Greenways grant provided for this parcel. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

4. Approve the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan (Referral No. 20001-1), but amend the park boundary by deleting the 2.8 acre lot retained by the Cedar Lake Farm Resort property owner.
5. Authorize a grant of up to \$1 million from the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Scott County to partially fund the acquisition of the Cedar Lake Farm Resort parcel for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.
6. Allow up to \$3,526,192 of the acquisition costs of the Cedar Lake Farm Resort parcel to be eligible for reimbursement consideration in a future regional parks CIP. The reimbursement amount will be reduced by any DNR Metro Greenways grant provided for this parcel. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Motion carried.

2007-20 – 2007 Local Planning Assistance Grant Program

Guy Peterson, community development director, provided background information on the planning assistance grant program reminding the committee that staff worked closely with Metro Cities on the criteria and that the committee reviewed the information in January and February. The Minnesota House of Representatives has not yet passed the legislation that will allow the Council to transfer \$1 million from the Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) to the Local Planning Assistance Fund. However, in order to prepare materials and communications in a timely manner, staff is asking the committee for approval of the program so they can prepare to move forward as soon as the Governor signs the legislation and it becomes law. The Council won't be asked to approve the program until it becomes law.

Phyllis Hanson reviewed the framework for a local planning assistance grant program to make grants available to qualifying local governments and counties to prepare and submit comprehensive plan updates to the Metropolitan Council by December 31, 2008.

Staff responded to questions about the application and process and notification to eligible communities. Steffen asked if staff could consider a potential grant for Linwood, Ham Lake and East Bethel.

Steffen moved, seconded by Hilker:

Council staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council take the following actions:

1. Authorize staff to implement a local planning assistance grant program to make grants available to qualifying local governments and counties to prepare and submit comprehensive plan updates to the Metropolitan Council by December 31, 2008.
2. Authorize that eligible applicants for this grant program be:
 - a. Communities with a 2005 Net Tax Capacity (NTC) amount less than or equal to 300 percent of the median NTC (\$12,840,000) for all communities in the metropolitan area.
and,
 - b. With a forecasted household growth for 2010 to 2030 that is a percent growth equal to or greater than the median (21) percent of forecasted household growth.
or,
 - c. Be a county, or a consortium of at least five communities working collaboratively to update their local comprehensive plans.
3. Authorize the Community Development Director to sign the grant agreements for this program.

Motion carried.

2007-13 – Community Development 2007 Work Plan

Guy Peterson, community development director, reviewed the 2007 Community Development Committee work plan. Peterson indicated that Georgacas asked him to note that when a new chair and committee

members are appointed that they reserve the right to revisit the work plan. Meeks indicated that Chair Georgacas is tied up in meetings at the legislature or he would have presented the work plan.

Hilker moved, seconded by Steffen, that the Community Development Committee adopt the following Community Development Committee 2007 Work Plan. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

June 4 Community Development Tour

John Kari, planning analyst, provided information on plans for a community development tour on June 4. The tour will begin at the Metropolitan Council offices at 1:30 p.m., go north to Blaine and return through the western part of Ramsey County into the city of St. Paul. The tour route includes : Livable Communities grant projects, regional parks, comprehensive plan and redevelopment issues, MUSA edge issues, new development, issues around new major employment (Medtronic offices in Mounds View), Twin Lakes in Roseville; and new town centers (Falcon Heights). The tour will end back at the Council at 4 p.m. The 48 passenger bus will be outfitted with a computer screen for presentations.

Peterson reported that all Council members will be invited to attend the tour. The Community Development Committee meeting scheduled on June 4 will probably be canceled. If there is a need to have a Community Development Committee meeting, it would be scheduled after the tour.

Livable Communities Advisory Committee Appointments

Joanne Barron, planning analyst, reviewed the Livable Communities Advisory Committee appointment process. Barron explained that staff is seeking applicants for four Livable Communities Advisory Committee positions this year. The expertise areas are 1) local government planning and community development, 2) transportation and land use, 3) redevelopment, and 4) site design. Committee members were asked to submit suggestions for the advisory committee positions to Barron or Peterson by May 25.

Staff will provide information at the June 18 Community Development Committee meeting on the Chair’s recommendations. The four appointments, effective July 1, will be made at the June 27 Council meeting.

Vice Chair Meeks asked how many meetings an advisory committee member would need to attend. Barron said at least eight meetings which occur on a frequent basis, sometimes weekly, from early September to early November with a lot of work within that timeframe. Peterson said the advisory committee generally meets for a two to three hour block of time when they meet.

Regional Planning Best Practices – Humphrey Institute PA 5211 Student Presentation

Robin Caufman, manager of public involvement/adjunct professor, introduced students from the University of Minnesota - Humphrey Institute’s Master of Urban and Regional Planning program, Urban Land Use Planning class (PA 5211). The class curriculum includes a group project conducting land use or comprehensive planning uses for a local client. The Metropolitan Council gave the Spring 2007 class the opportunity to conduct research on regional growth issues. The work plan includes exploring regional planning and growth management techniques used in other metropolitan areas. John Kari, planning analyst, served as the class’s client. Under Kari’s direction, the class reviewed the regional planning models of other metropolitan areas, including:

- Evaluation of overall effectiveness at addressing that region’s planning and growth issue(s),
- Comparison and contrast with the Minnesota regional planning model, and
- Identification of one key lesson learned.

Team Presenter	City	Key Lesson
Avigya Karki	Denver, CO	DRCOG uses its status as a voluntary organization, founded on the premise that cooperation is beneficial to all, to leverage its resources.
Elison Yahner	Seattle, WA	The regional growth center strategy as a tool to direct transportation investment.
Cynthia Lapp	Portland, OR	Metro committee structure allows for continuous involvement of citizens, elected officials

Team Presenter	City	Key Lesson
		and municipal and county professionals. Structural changes could be made so that interactions with its constituents could be strengthened at the Met Council.
Bonnie Keeler	Phoenix, AZ	A model of strong local control without the oversight and enforcement of a unified regional planning authority, while successful at addressing local issues, will in the long run inhibit a regional response to proactively addressing growth and facilitating the management of the natural and social capital that ultimately determines a region's quality of life.
Ben Stein	Austin, TX	The role that nonprofit and business and community leaders can play in pushing planning issues onto the agenda is something that could be utilized in the twin cities.
Carlos Espinosa	Cleveland, OH	The Metropolitan Council needs to continue to promote its role in above-ground physical developments in the region. An example would be the new stadium proposals.
Mari Hunter	San Diego	The Metropolitan Council might consider a more detailed framework regarding affordable housing because the need for affordable housing will increase as the cities diversify.
Greg Schweser	Tampa, FL	Concurrency has only enforced the provision of adequate facilities, but has had little impact in guiding growth.

Caufman noted there are several themes throughout all of their reports and they all provide suggestions for improved public involvement activities, transportation, planning, growth management and housing strategies.

In response to a question from Meeks if there were other lessons from Portland that the Council could use, Lapp said another thing Metro has that Metropolitan Council lacks is that they are part of a very structured state-wide planning organization. It is required by all cities and also by all urban regions and they have state and regional planning requirements and goals so they are not in vacuum which makes it very efficient.

Meeks reported that she had visited the cities the class reported on and the students all did a very good job of accurately representing them. Meeks asked if San Diego had a member on their Council from Mexico. Hunter said they do, but their structure is they are elected local officials and they participate in the regional authority planning group. They have a representative from Mexico as well as the surrounding counties. One thing that they do lack that the Metropolitan Council has is public participation, but they compensate by being elected officials.

Aguilar noted that it appears that urban planning is attracting some very great talent, and thanked the group for their presentation.

Steffen commented that she heard how large the Metropolitan Council is in their reports, but given the amount of responsibility the Council has, wasn't sure they counted all the different organizations in some of the cities discussed.

Hilker thought it would be interesting if the class gave their presentation to the legislature, and Steffen suggested the Association of Minnesota Counties.

Vice Chair Meeks noted that many of the COGs were developed after the Metropolitan Council and that the Council served as their model. Meeks commented that it would be interesting to see what kind of development has occurred around communities with new ball parks. Meeks thanked the class for their excellent work.

Committee and Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, Steffen moved, seconded by Aguilar, to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Patraw
Administrative Technician

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