

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, June 6, 2011

Committee Members Present: **Gary Cunningham, Chair; Jon Commers, Vice-Chair; Steven T. Chávez, Steven Elkins, Richard Kramer, 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 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Elkins, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Rummel to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2011-152 Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan Amendment, City of St. Paul and Ramsey County (Referral No. 50007-1)

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

Kramer moved, seconded by Rummel that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan Amendment (Referral No. 50007-1).
2. Inform the City of St. Paul that the proposed tennis court replacement costs are not eligible for Metro Regional Parks CIP funding but are grand-fathered into the park as they were there prior to the regional park designation and do not adversely affect the natural resource based recreation facilities.
3. Request the City of St. Paul to submit minor plan amendments on costs that had not been determined for:
 - a. Phalen Project 19a: Trail and adjacent East Shore Drive safety improvements
 - b. Phalen Project 19b: Traffic calming/safety measures on East Shore Drive
4. Request the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County to submit a set of preliminary plans for park improvements in the areas surrounding Spoon Lake, the northeast corner of Keller Lake, and the northern portion of Phalen Lake to Scott Dentz of MCES for review and comment to ensure that MCES facilities will not be negatively affected by any construction practices.
5. Request the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County parks departments to work cooperatively with applicable street and highway departments on cost sharing for: a)the proposed parkways on

that portion of Arcade Street/U.S. Highway 61 which borders the east side of Phalen Park and bisects Keller Park and (b)the proposed tunnel under Highway 36.

6. Request Ramsey County to shift the proposed trail tunnel under Highway 36 further east to eliminate disturbance to nesting bald eagles.
7. Inform Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul that the master plan's proposed use of embankments for a Bruce Vento Regional Trail bridge over Maryland Avenue is not consistent with Ramsey Regional Rail Authority and the Phalen Village plans and appears to be a drafting error because the pedestrian bridge was recommended for deletion by the Master Site Plan Design Advisory Task Force. **The motion carried.**

Council member Kramer informed the Committee that the master plan's proposed utilization of embankments as landfall points for a Bruce Vento Regional Trail bridge over Maryland Avenue is a drafting error and is not consistent with Ramsey Regional Rail Authority and the Phalen Village plans. The pedestrian bridge was recommended for deletion by the Master Site Plan Design Advisory Task Force. Consequently, the Committee added the seventh recommendation.

The Committee discussed whether the proposed Chinese Garden as part of a sister city relationship with Changsha, China should not be eligible for regional park capital improvement program (CIP) grant funding from the Metropolitan Council. A motion to remove it from regional park CIP grant funding eligibility did not prevail. Committee members noted that such a garden would be unique and attract a regional audience like the Japanese Garden at Como Conservatory. Fund-raising efforts from the sister city relationship would likely finance the garden in addition to other sources and may be the primary funding source for the garden.

2011-153 Board Resolution authorizing grant execution for Rental Assistance for Anoka County (RAAC)

HRA manager Terri Smith presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Rummel moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt a resolution, required by Minnesota Housing, to authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Grant Agreement Amendment with Minnesota Housing for the Rental Assistance for Anoka County (RAAC) Program.

Council Member Smith asked what happens after the three (3) month extension period. Staff responded that MN Housing will then make a decision, hopefully based on a passed State budget, on whether funding is sufficient to continue funding the program. **The motion carried.**

2011-154 Board Resolution authorizing grant execution for the Bridges Program

HRA Manager Terri Smith presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Kramer that the Metropolitan Council adopt a resolution, required by Minnesota Housing, to authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a continuation Grant Agreement with Minnesota Housing for the Bridges Rental Assistance Program.

The motion carried.

2011-155 Metropolitan Council Acceptance of the Terms of the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement (Allison Brummel 651 602-1363)

Project manager Allison Brummel presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Smith moved, seconded by Wulff that the Community Development Committee delay this proposed action to “accept the terms of the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement, authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement” two weeks and place on the June 20 CDC agenda. **The motion carried.**

The committee had several questions regarding the consortium and the goals and principles for the projects.

Ms. Brummel explained the HUD grant program is a combination of 21 separate projects, and the goals will be implemented in many different ways. One example she offered the committee is the implementation capacity fund and the investment in new TOD project models. A committee member inquired delaying a vote on this item has any consequences to allow more time to become familiar with the grant program. The committee chair suggested discussing this item further at the next CDC meeting, going to the 6/22 MetC meeting as a same week item.

2011-156 City of Vadnais Heights Comprehensive Plan Update, Review No. 20811-1, Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan (Lisa Barajas 651 602-1895)

Senior Planner Lisa Barajas presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Rummel 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 Vadnais Heights to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect.
2. Adopt the revised forecasts for the City of Vadnais Heights as detailed in Table 1 of the Review Record.
3. Advise the City to:
 - a. Participate in the Council’s activities to monitor development and redevelopment

in Developed communities.

- b. Implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Forecasts and Surface Water Management.

Recommendations of the Environment Committee:

Approve the City of Vadnais Heights's Tier II Comprehensive Sewer Plan.

The motion carried.

Council Member Cunningham asked whether communities were being asked to include updated census information in their comprehensive plans as we are reviewing them at this point. Barajas explained that communities submitting their plans were still responding to and being reviewed against their 2005 System Statements, which include their forecasts, but not updated information regarding Census data. She also explained that the City staff worked with the Council staff to revise their System Statement forecasts, and those are reflected in their Update.

2011-157 Amendment to the Livable Communities Advisory Committee Bylaws

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

Livable Communities Manager, Paul Burns presented the proposed action to the Committee, explaining that the last revision of the Bylaws for the Livable Communities Advisory Committee (LCAC), in 2005, included the establishment of term limits for LCAC members. The LCAC assists in the review of applications for Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grants. Mr. Burns explained that the experience gained by committee members over their terms has proven to be very valuable to the process and the loss of that experience is difficult to replace. The proposed action eliminates the term limits and makes other housekeeping amendments to the LCAC Bylaws.

Wulff moved, seconded by Kramer that the Metropolitan Council adopt amended bylaws of the Livable Communities Advisory Committee to eliminate term limits for Committee members and address housekeeping issues. **The motion carried.**

Chair Cunningham asked what the longest tenure for a member has been. Burns responded that seven years has been the longest term since 2005.

INFORMATION

Livable Communities Act Affordable and Ownership [2011 Income Limits](#)

Research manager Libby Starling presented this information presentation to the Community Development Committee. Ms. Starling provided data on the Ownership and Rent Affordability Limits for 2011. She defined "affordable housing" and the monthly rents and purchase price limits. She explained the area median income (AMI) for a family of four in the region.

Fiscal Disparities Program

Planning Analyst Deb Detrick presented this information presentation to the Community Development Committee. Ms. Detrick provided information on the Fiscal Disparities program; the history of the program, the objective to redistribute fiscal resources, and promote better planning, how the property tax basics and contribution works in communities. The presentation also included information on results and the top 20 recipients and contributors.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on June 20, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary