

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, June 20, 2011

Committee Members Present: **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, Vice-Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Community Development Committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 20, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Smith seconded by Rummel, to approve the agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Kramer to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2011-172 LCA Tax Base Revitalization Account Spring Grant Recommendations
Senior Planner Marcus Martin presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council award 13 Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) grants as follows:

Projects recommended for Spring 2011 TBRA funding	Recommended amount
Contamination Site Investigation	
Hastings EDRA – Hudson Manufacturing	\$50,000
Saint Paul – East 7 th and Reaney	\$46,500
Contamination Cleanup	
Minneapolis – Lehmann Center (Buzza Building)	\$306,000
Minneapolis – Mill & Main Phase I	\$217,700
Minneapolis – Oak Street Flats	\$34,500
Minneapolis – Precision Building	\$612,500
Minneapolis – University Gateway Phase I	\$79,300
Minnetonka – Cattle Company	\$72,400
Saint Louis Park EDA – Wooddale Pointe	\$70,000
Saint Paul – Pioneer Endicott Building Phase II	\$540,500
Saint Paul – PPL West 7 th Housing	\$55,500
Saint Paul – Schmidt Brewery Phase II	\$343,200
White Bear Township – Birch Lake	\$71,900
TOTAL	\$2,500,000

Committee members asked questions concerning how the application evaluation process accounts for funding limits among applicants and the origins of the limits. Staff indicated that the evaluation first considers the funding criteria adopted in the Livable Communities Fund Distribution Report to set a project ranking, according to Council's priorities, followed by a review of eligible funding requests. Adjustments are made on an as needed basis to the grant amounts requested by individual proposals that exceed funding limits set in the TBRA statute (Minnesota Statutes §473.25).

At the conclusion of the staff recommendation, the chair recognized a representative from the City of Saint Paul to discuss the Chittenden and Eastman redevelopment proposal that was not recommended for funding. Since the project is scheduled to begin this fall, the City requested that, if the applicant were to reapply and receive an award in the fall contamination cleanup funding cycle, a one-time waiver from existing policy be made to allow reimbursement of cleanup costs incurred before the award was granted. (Current grant administration policy allows for *investigation* costs associated with a contamination cleanup request incurred within 180 days prior to an application date to be considered eligible for TBRA funding. Costs incurred for *cleanup* funding are eligible after the date a TBRA grant is awarded.) The City was asked if they would support a recommendation reducing the grant award from another project within the city to support the Chittenden and Eastman project. The City representative declined. No motion in support of the waiver request was presented.

A motion was made by Wulff and seconded by Munt to approve the staff recommendation. The motion to approve the proposed action passed unanimously. **The motion carried.**

2011-173 Twin Lakes Regional Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Referral No. 50008-1) Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Rummel moved, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Twin Lakes Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 50008-1).
2. Encourage Three Rivers Park District to collaborate with others in multi-jurisdictional funding of the East Segment since more expensive trail design options provide benefits beyond trail users.

The Committee had no questions. **The motion carried.**

2011-174 Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant for 4 parcels for Mississippi River Regional Trail, Dakota County

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

Wulff moved, seconded by Chávez that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$56,044 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account in the Park

Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Dakota County to partially finance the acquisition of four parcels as described in Attachment 1 for the Mississippi River Regional Trail. The grant should be financed with:

\$33,626 from the 2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation

\$22,418 from Metropolitan Council bonds

The Committee had no questions. **The motion carried.**

2011-175 Change in scope of Eastman Nature Center development grant SG-2010-102 to maximize use of grant proceeds, Three Rivers Park District

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

Wulff moved, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council authorize an amendment to grant SG-2010-102 which changes the scope of the grant by allowing \$1,080,000 of the grant to be used as follows:

\$630,000 for renovating the maintenance shop at Crow Hassan Park Reserve

\$275,000 to construct additional trails in the western half of Carver Park Reserve

\$150,000 to plan and design renovation of Medicine Lake Regional Trail

\$25,000 to establish a potable water supply system for campground activities at Baker Park Reserve.

The Committee had no questions. **The motion carried.**

2011-155 Metropolitan Council Acceptance of the Terms of the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement

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

Munt moved, seconded by Rummel that the Metropolitan Council Accept the terms of the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement, authorizing the Chair to sign the agreement.

One member of the committee asked if there have been any challenges in obtaining the approval and signature of any of the other 24 signatories to the Consortium Agreement. Ms. Brummel answered that there has been no resistance, and in fact, most of the organizations have already submitted fully executed agreements.

Several members of the committee expressed their strong support for the initiative.

The Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to sign the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement. **The motion carried.**

2011-135 2011 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

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

Chávez moved, seconded by Kramer that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2011 Unified Operating Budget to increase revenues and expenditures by \$1,800,000 for projects indicated below:

In late spring 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made

funding available for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning. In August 2010 the Metropolitan Council applied for the program on behalf of a regional consortium that includes Minnesota Housing, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the McKnight Foundation. This consortium is governed by a Policy Board comprised of representatives from the organizations that are not only partnering on the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG) but also on the implementation of the Living Cities initiative, which is also funded from 2011 through 2013. In the SCRPG application to HUD, funding allocations and project components were the product of decisions by this Policy Board.

In the fall of 2010, the Metropolitan Council was awarded a \$5 million grant which, with the help of local leveraging resources, will support planning along the region's network of transit corridors. In December 2010 the Metropolitan Council authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Grant Agreement with HUD for the \$5 million grant. The Regional Administrator and HUD signed the fully negotiated agreement with an effective date of February 1, 2011. The SCRPG will run for three years, ending in January 2014. It will enable the Council, the consortium and its local partners to support voluntary comprehensive development strategies for five transitway corridors –Southwest LRT, Bottineau Transitway, Cedar Avenue BRT, Northstar Commuter Rail, and Gateway Corridor—and support local communities to implement corridor strategies. The grant will address economic/workforce development, alternative energy systems, housing energy efficiency/affordability, stormwater and green infrastructure in the Central Corridor. The grant will also support technical studies and data collection in the corridors. In all, the SCRPG includes 21 separate but integrated projects intended to serve as models for use throughout the region.

Based on work plans and timelines developed for each project over the three year grant term, it is projected that \$1,800,000 will be expended in 2011.

The Committee had no questions. **The motion carried.**

INFORMATION

Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves 2010 Status Report (Tori Dupre 651 602-1621)
Senior Planner Tori Dupre presented an informational presentation on the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program to the Community Development Committee. She provided an overview of the program and its objectives, the Council's role, and the program details; certification, enrollment, benefits, and funding.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on July 18, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Commers adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary