

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December 19, 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 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Rummel to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2011-364 Bassett Creek Regional Trail Master Plan, Three Rivers Park District (Referral No. 50013-1)

Senior Planner Jan Youngquist presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Bassett Creek Regional Trail Master Plan (Referral No. 50013-1).
2. Require that prior to development of new trail segments, development plans be sent to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment in order to ensure the integrity of the interceptor system.
3. Advise Three Rivers Park District that the construction costs described in the master plan for Segment D (striping a bike lane along Nevada Avenue) and for Segment E6 (reconstruction of the existing trail parallel to TH 100 as part of a future residential subdivision) are not eligible for regional parks funding.

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

2011-365 Scott West Regional Trail Master Plan, Scott County, Review File No. 50011-1

Senior Planner Tori Dupre presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Chávez moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the Scott West Regional Trail Master Plan.

Committee member asked whether the trail acquisition and development costs represented today's dollars. Staff responded that the master plan's cost estimates are based on current land values and development costs. **The motion carried.**

2011-366 Reimbursement Consideration Request for Completing Nature Play Area at Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park, Ramsey County
 Planning Analyst Arne Stefferud presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Rummel moved, seconded by Kramer that the Metropolitan Council authorize Ramsey County to expend up to \$150,000 of its own funds for the construction of the remaining Tamarack Nature Center Play Area elements consisting of the gathering shade arbor, tunnel/climbing features and interpretive signage at Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park. This project is proposed to be funded from the County’s share of the SFY 2013 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation. The County will not be reimbursed for its expenses from the SFY 2013 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation until the appropriation is available and after execution of a grant agreement for this project.

The Committee asked if this type of reimbursement request in which a park agency began work on a project prior to the grant for the project being approved as a typical situation. Staff replied that this was typical and had occurred on other projects financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations since those grants became available in 2009. The Legacy Fund appropriation for this project is not available until the middle of a construction season (July 1) to align with the beginning of the State’s fiscal year. Ramsey County wants to begin work before then to effectively use the summer construction season. **The motion carried.**

2011-367 LCA Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) Grant Recommendations
 Senior Planner Martin Marcus presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

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

Projects recommended for Fall 2011 TBRA funding	Recommended amount
Contamination Site Investigation	
Minneapolis – Jackson Flats	\$28,000
White Bear Lake – Boat Works Commons	\$18,600
Contamination Cleanup	
Minneapolis – 430 Oak Grove	\$265,300
Minneapolis – Jaguar	\$442,900
Minneapolis – Riverside Plaza II	\$300,000
Minneapolis – Snelling Apartments	\$140,600
Minneapolis PHA – Heritage Park Senior Service Center II	\$26,900
Saint Louis Park EDA – Ellipse II	\$275,000
Saint Paul – Chittenden & Eastman Building	\$128,000
Saint Paul – Rayette Lofts	\$324,800
Saint Paul – Schmidt Brew House II	\$248,200
Saint Paul Port Authority – Beacon Bluff II	\$111,800

Saint Paul Port Authority – Beacon Bluff III	\$97,400
TOTAL	\$2,407,500

An amendment to the staff recommendation submitted on December 14, 2011 was proposed by staff given new information about projects DEED has decided to fund in this round. The amendment removes funding from the Starkey Building proposal (\$55,400) and adds the same amount to the next ranked project recommended to receive partial funding resulting in a revised recommendation of \$324,800 for the Rayette Lofts proposal.

A question was raised regarding the status of the Boat Works Commons proposal with an awareness of recent city council actions affecting the proposed redevelopment plan. City staff was contacted for comment in November and indicated it was too soon to know how the development plans will change. However, city staff also reaffirmed their support for the redevelopment project and the need for more information about the environmental condition of the site. **The motion carried.**

2011-368 City of Wayzata Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Local Scenic Byways Review File No. 20529-3

Senior Planner Tom Caswell presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Munt moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record, and the following:

1. Adopt the attached review record and allow the City of Wayzata to put the Local Scenic Byways comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) into effect.
2. Advise the City that the Council will continue to support the designation and function of CSAH 101/Bushaway Road as an “A” Minor arterial (expander).
3. Find that the proposed CPA does not change the City’s forecasts.

Mr. Caswell presented the staff report, and explained that Wayzata is proposing an overlay designation of Scenic Byway for several roads in the City.

There are two primary corridors. The east/west route includes Shoreline Drive, Lake Street, Eastman Lane, and McGinty Road. The north/south route is County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 101/Bushaway Road.

Mr. Caswell noted that both Hennepin County, and the City of Minnetonka submitted letters to Wayzata opposing the overlay designation for County Road 101/Bushaway Road.

The committee commented that the letters of objection were approximately six months old, and asked if they still objected to the amendment. Caswell explained that while Wayzata did revise the amendment, the proposed overly designation along County Road 101 was unchanged and it is assumed the County and Minnetonka remained opposed. The committee asked staff to try and obtain letters indicating current positions. Those responses are attached, and show continued opposition.

Ann Braden, Council transportation division staff, addressed the committee and explained that County Road 101, while being an A minor arterial expander, is not a metropolitan

highway and the Council, therefore, lacks the authority to require Wayzata to modify its amendment. She also explained that because it is a county road, Hennepin County has jurisdiction over its function.

Wayzata City Council member and mayor pro-tem, Jack Amdal, also addressed the committee. He explained that the City is hoping to qualify for state or federal funding under the Scenic Byways program. He further stated that the City understands the County transportation plans “trump” the City’s designation. He also stated that the City understands and accepts Council staff recommendations regarding the functional classification of County Road 101/Bushaway Road.

The committee adopted the proposed action by vote of six in favor and two opposed. **The motion carried.**

2011-369 Sciota Township 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update Review File No. 20827-1 Senior Planner Patrick Boylan presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Wulff moved, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record, and the following:

1. Authorize Sciota Township to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect.
2. Advise the Township to implement the advisory comments for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) and Parks.

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

INFORMATION

American Community Survey Results

Research Manager Libby Starling presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Community Development Committee. She provided information on types of data available, increments in years, area median household incomes, poverty populations, housing cost burdens, foreign born population, English proficiency, carpooling and public transportation data, and area average commuting time.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on January 17, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Business completed Chair Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary