

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, May 21, 2012

Committee Members Present: **Gary Cunningham, Chair; 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, May 21, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the May 7 2012 regular meeting of the Community Development Committee with a correction regarding a motion for 2012-113. **The motion carried.**

BUSINESS

2012-166 City of Vadnais Heights 2011 System Statement Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 20811-2 (Lisa Barajas 651 602-1895)

Planning Analyst LisaBeth Barajas presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Community Development Committee.

Elkins moved, seconded by Kramer that the Metropolitan Council

1. Adopt the attached review record and allow the City of Vadnais Heights to put the 2011 System Statement comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) into effect.
2. Find that the proposed CPA does not change the City's forecasts.
3. Advise the City to implement the comments in the Review Record for Transportation.

The Committee did not have any questions or discussion regarding the proposed actions.

The motion carried.

2012-162 Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Request for Rush Creek Regional Trail, Three Rivers Park District (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

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

Elkins moved, seconded by Rummel that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of up to \$255,750 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to finance 75% of the acquisition costs to acquire 5.87 acres from the City of Brooklyn Park as depicted in Figure 1

for Rush Creek Regional Trail. The grant should be financed with:

\$153,450 from the 2009 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation
\$102,300 from Metropolitan Council bonds

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

2012-163 Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant Request for Baker Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

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

Elkins moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of up to \$211,875 from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Acquisition Account in the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund to Three Rivers Park District to finance 75% of the acquisition costs to acquire the 1 acre Benjamin parcel as depicted in Figure 1 for Baker Park Reserve. The grant should be financed with:

\$127,125 from the FY 2012 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriation
\$ 84,750 from Metropolitan Council bonds

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

2012-164 Whitetail Woods Regional Park Master Plan, Dakota County (Arne Stefferud 651 602-1360)

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

Elkins moved, seconded by Wulff that the Metropolitan Council approve the Whitetail

Woods Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 50024-1)

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

2012-143 Amendment to the 2012 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan, Transit Oriented Development Grants (Paul Burns 651 602-1106)

Livable Communities Manager Paul Burns presented an overview of the recommended amendments to the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Program Chapter of the 2012 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. He also gave a short summary of the grants awarded in the first round of TOD grant awards and the feedback received from the applicants, the internal grant review

team and the overall experiences of the grant review process to the Community Development Committee.

Elkins moved, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council To amend the 2012 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan http://councilmeetings.metc.state.mn.us/council_meetings/2012/0328/0328_2012_91.pdf, by replacing the Transit Oriented Development Program Chapter with the attached revised chapter to establish funding levels and make clarifications and improvements to the 2012 TOD grant programs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments to the Transit Oriented Development Program Chapter of the 2012 Annual Livable Communities Fund Distribution Plan. Committee members discussed, asked questions and expressed concerns that resulted in the following amended motions:

First proposed amendment to the motion was to reduce the maximum individual TOD LCDA grant award from \$2M to \$1M. Motion failed

Second proposed amendment to the motion was to limit each project to apply for and to be awarded one grant only in each of the TOD grant categories of LCDA predevelopment and development, and TBRA site investigation and cleanup. Motion failed

Third proposed amendment to the motion was to leave Residential Densities and Floor Area Ratio standards as requirements but reduce the lower end of the ranges for Bus to 7 units per acre for Residential Densities and .25 for the Floor Area Ratio. Motion passed. (It should be noted that the original document inadvertently neglected to reflect that the Bus ranges also apply for Commuter Rail. That language has now been added.)

Original motion as amended passed. The attached Transit Oriented Development Program Chapter reflects the changes recommended by the Community Development Committee.

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

[Health Impact Assessment: A Review of 2030 Comprehensive Plan Updates](#) (Patrick Boylan 651 602-1438)

Council staff have worked with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) over the past two years in support of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant they received in 2010.

Grant funds enabled the MDH to review the regional comprehensive planning process used for the metropolitan area. The purpose of the review was to determine if public health and climate change adaptation and mitigation are being addressed within the comprehensive plan updates (CPUs) for the region.

The Council provided a letter of support for the CDC grant application and provided staff assistance in developing review methodology and access to approved CPUs

MDH reviewed 53 comp plans within the “developed” geographic policy area to better understand the influence of comp plans on public health and climate change, which represents 56% of the seven-county metro area’s population.

The 53 comp plans were assessed using 11 public health and climate change indicators that relate to the current regional comp plan requirements.

[Fair Housing Equity Assessment - Introduction](#) (Katie Hatt 651 602-1555)

The Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is a project our region will undertake this year at the direction of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The FHEA is a required component of our region’s participation in the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. This project offers an opportunity to build on success and learnings of Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement work to inform our approach to partnerships and process.

Through the FHEA process, Council staff will convene many partners in a three-part process: data analysis of regional indicators; deliberations about regional equity and access to opportunity; and decision making to integrate the FHEA findings into regional planning activities, including ThriveMSP 2040 and subsequent systems and policy plans.

The required FHEA assessment components will include the following:

- Segregated areas and areas of increasing diversity and/or racial/ethnic segregation
- Racially/ethnically concentrated areas of poverty
- Access to existing areas of high opportunity
- Major public investments, including transportation & economic development
- Fair Housing issues, services and activities

We are encouraged to go beyond these required components and supplement data provided by HUD to include additional indicators and data.

HUD has stressed the importance of this initiative through a series of six webinars held this year. Among the evaluation factors we will be evaluated on are:

- Complete and serious evaluation of HUD-provided data
- Bringing in additional data to gain a fuller appreciation of context of regional equity and access to opportunity
- The extent to which our FHEA product reflects meaningful consideration of the data and implications for the region
- Proof of serious engagement by regional stakeholders on FHEA findings and content
- The extent to which the FHEA links to decision making, prioritization and investment and provides a clear pathway toward holding the region accountable for FHEA deliberations.

As two examples of how regions are approaching related work and issues,

below are links to the recently-published Denver Regional Equity Atlas and the Puget Sound Regional Council's Opportunity Mapping project.

Denver Regional Equity Atlas:

<http://www.milehighconnects.org/equity-atlas.html>

Puget Sound Regional Council - Opportunity Maps & Report
(developed in partnership with the Kirwan Institute):

http://psrc.org/assets/7831/Draft_Opportunity_Maps_Report_2-10-12.pdf

[Continued discussion of 2013 Budget Priorities](#) (Guy Peterson 651 602-1418)

Earlier this year the Committee had a short discussion of some of the CD division work priorities for 2013 that could translate into budgetary needs to be reflected in the Council's 2013 operating budget. Since that meeting, Pat Born has emphasized the budgets principles and parameters in place for the 2013 budget at a recent Committee of the Whole meeting, and has encouraged staff to discuss this further with our respective standing committees.

On the 21st we will discuss priorities and budget impacts as the Committee identifies them, but of significant importance will be the matter of funds to support TOD related activities going forward. Supporting TOD has been identified as a Council Priority, and the Council addressed this with a LCA TOD program that has used grant relinquishments to fund grants for TOD related activities in 2011 and 2012. But with exception of some remaining TBRA monies, there are no "extra" funds remaining to fund a specific and exclusive TOD grant program through the LCA. The issue will be one of discussing how an increased LCA levy can be used to fund a more modest TOD grant program going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled CDC meeting will be held on June 18, 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