

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: April 20, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor Obisakin, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Toni Carter, D14 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lindstrom, District 10 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Wulff, District 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | | |

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Metropolitan Council acknowledges that the land we currently call Minnesota and specifically the seven-county region is the ancestral homeland of the Dakota Oyate who are present and active contributors to our thriving region. As part of the Metropolitan Council's commitment to address the unresolved legacy of genocide, dispossession, and settler colonialism and the fact that government institutions, including the Metropolitan Council, benefitted economically, politically, and institutionally after the forceable removal of the Dakota Oyate, the Metropolitan Council is dedicated to instilling Land, Water, and People Commitments in regional policy. These commitments support the Dakota Oyate, the eleven federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota, Ho-Chunk Nation, and the American Indian Communities representing over 150 diverse Tribal Nations that call the seven-county region home.

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Carter called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:09 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Vice Chair Carter.

Agenda approved

Council members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda, and it was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Obisakin to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Information

1. Climate and Natural Systems Agency-Council Workgroup (Kevin Phan and Colin Kelly)
Phan and Kelly have an update on the Climate and Natural System Agency-Council Workgroup as outlined in the materials provided.

Vice Chair Carter asked if there are obvious examples.

Lindstrom asked if 500 acres became available, would it not be eligible for regional status? Phan discussed the possibility of conservation with the 80/20 rule where 80% is protected.

Lindstrom asked for clarification if this is classification or sub-classification and how does that differ from a reserve? Phan stated we're exploring and using both classifications and sub-classification. He discussed the difficulty with reserve vs. open space, and one is size and way for the implementing agencies to utilize partnerships and coordinated efforts. They are still exploring options.

Lee asked about a donation of 500 acres to an implementing agency, would the open space classification determine if the donation could be accepted. Phan discussed the potential but noted the question of providing funding sources.

Wulff discussed existing science and natural areas, etc. and asked, is there anything that would prevent them from asking again for partnership with Regional Implementing Agencies. Wulff noted funding is the biggest issue as this doesn't bring any additional funding.

Lindstrom discussed 80/20 and suggested 90/10 to lower cost of development. Phan stated they haven't thought about modifying that rule and discussed funding and money available for capitol projects.

2. Housing Choice Voucher Residential Preferences Final Report (Mett Schroeder and Zhu Gong)

Schroeder and Gong gave a presentation on final results on Housing Choice Voucher Residential Preferences as outlined in the materials provided.

Obisakin shared concerns with vouchers not being accepted and asked how we address this barrier. Gong agreed with the frustration.

How do we turn these findings into actionable steps. Gong discussed agency collaboration and working with voucher holders – this is an ongoing question that we need to continue to ask.

Schroeder discussed difficulties enforcing discrimination.

Terri Smith, Director HRA discussed anti-discrimination laws at the state level that didn't pass but suggested people contacting legislators to push for passage next year. She also discussed help with application fees, etc. and noted we need more resources for this.

Wulff asked if surveys have ever been done of general population (none voucher holders). Schroeder discussed surveys of low-income renters but was not aware of survey of 'general' populations.

Lindstrom would like to see this survey every 2-3 years and asked if there was anything that surprised staff. Gong responded that as researchers, any data is exciting but felt open ended responses were interesting and encouraged Council Members to read the final report. One thing that stood out was satisfaction with shared households, i.e., multifamily homes.

Vice Chair Carter asked about future findings. Smith discussed the Metro HRA that has an ongoing Resident Advisory Board and their work.

Vice Chair Carter asked if there is anything that we can do to increase the acceptability of vouchers. Smith discussed landlord engagement sessions being done bi-monthly. She noted there is an incentive program for first time property owners to participate. She felt having an outreach team to help mediate between tenants and voucher holders would be good.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Community Development Committee meeting of April 20, 2026.

Council contact:

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