

Minutes

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: June 1, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reva Chamblis, District 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |
| <input checked="" 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 Chair Lilligren called the regular meeting of the Community Development Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

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

Agenda approved

Council members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of May 18, 2026, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 1-3)

1. **2026-101:** City of Newport Zoning and Future and Land Use Update Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 21915-4 (Merritt Clapp-Smith, 651-60201567) Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:
 - 1) Authorize the City to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
 - 2) Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts for 2040 but may affect forecasts for 2050 if land use guiding and supply do not adjust for forecast expectations

during the 2050 planning cycle.

- 3) Advise the City to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Forecasts, Housing, and Wastewater.
2. **2026-85:** Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council establish a date to conduct a public hearing to discuss and receive comment on the 2027 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Annual Plan. The hearing will take place on August 17, 2026, at 4:00pm.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter.

Motion carried.

Question for Commission

Chair Lilligren asked commissioner for the preference of cancelling the July 6, 2026 CDC Meeting due to the holiday and only one business item, that could go directly to the Council. Commission members agreed to the cancelation.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

1. 2026-78 JT: 2nd Quarter Budget Amendment (Heather Giesel)

Giesel reviewed the 2nd Quarter Budget Amendment proposal as outline in the materials provided.

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2026 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2026 Community Tree Planting Program (Gillian Greemberg and Erin Brueggemann)

Greenberg and Brueggemann gave a presentation on the Community Tree Planting Grants 2026-2027 Program as outlined in the materials provided.

Lilligren asked about shifting the administrative costs to participating communities and also what does project management mean? Brueggemann discussed operation and maintenance costs, to a degree, were already being covered by communities. Regarding project management, it includes participants, capacity and ability. Greenberg noted we also look at budget/timelines.

Wulff discussed differentiation of number of Ash removed and looking at those not funded in the last round but scored high (just because the money ran out) and suggested they be the first applicants considered for this go around.

Wulff discuss climate change impacts and discussed information on heat islands being more about industrial and parking lots – didn't differentiate well.

Wulff discussed an inventory of tree species today, by communities, so we don't create a mono-culture.

Greenberg discussed tiering and Ash removal and why they're thinking about numbers being planted in priority areas. She noted that most trees being removed were Ash. They also looked at the number of Ash being removed and number being planted noting that they didn't want 1:1 removal/replacement but looking for overall additional tree planting.

Greenberg discussed the DNR looking whether a city has previously received funding/grants.

Regarding climate, Greenberg stated the goal was to expand beyond heat – looking at only the narrative question and asking applicant to explain why they picked the area they did.

Greenberg discussed DNR species distribution. She stated they've work very hard on DNR data of species of trees inventory to help create a diverse tree canopy.



Wulff stated she would rather provide information (especially for smaller communities) to help. She would like to help communities that are having trouble getting there.

Carter appreciates the work and discussed schoolyards with a lack of trees. She asked about motivation for jurisdictions to address small projects. Greenberg stated smaller projects are being bundled in a project that would be competitive. The only dis-incentive could be cities not thinking their smaller request is worth the application process.

Cameron asked about consideration to funding treatment of Ash forests of trees. Greenberg stated that they are looking at boulevards/parks and working with city foresters.

Chambliss asked about marketing of tree planting and about cities that scored high, but the funding ran out. She would like them to be considered first in this next round.

Lindstrom noted he's grateful for the money but noted it's really just a 'drop in the bucket'. He felt the bonding issue will be a challenge for some cities.

2. 2025 Plat Monitoring Report (MacKenzie Young-Walters)

Young-Walters gave a presentation on the 2025 Plat Monitoring Program as outlined in the materials provided.

Wulff noted it would be helpful to see where the market is for single family, detached and attached, and multi-family homes. Young-Walters agreed that this is useful information but cumbersome to put together. Wulff stated it is good for council members to understand where the demand is. Barajas discussed housing demand reports and some ways we can connect with housing researchers to provide some of this information in the future.

Morales stated he would be interested to see what trends look like going forward with multi-family developments.

3. 2025 Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program Report (MacKenzie Young-Walters)

Young-Walters gave a presentation on the 2025 Metropolitan Agricultural Preserves Program report as outlined in the materials provided.

Lindstrom asked about enrollment trends falling. Young-Walters discussed aging farmers, families no longer wanting to farm, as well as other reasons.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:34 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 June 1, 2026.

Council contact:

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