

Minutes

Equity Advisory Committee



Meeting date: June 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members present:

- | | | |
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| ☒ Co-Chair, John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | ☒ Samiira Isse, District C | ☒ Ibrahim Owolabi, at large |
| ☐ (E) Co-Chair, Carmeann Foster, at large | ☒ Anita L. Urvina Davis, District D | ☒ Robert Blake, at large |
| ☐ Yassin Osman, District 7 | ☒ Zakariya Abdullahi, District E | ☒ Marquita Stephens, at large |
| ☒ Dr. Tyrone Carter, District 3 | ☐ (E) Sabrina Tapia Contreras, District F | ☒ Brian Xiong, at large |
| ☐ (E) Toni Carter, District 14 | ☐ Odell Brown, District G | ☒ Astrid Benedetto, at large |
| ☒ Michael Luseni, District A | ☐ Vacant, District H | ☒ Markeya Knight, at large |
| ☒ Taiwo Giwa, District B | ☐ (E) Elizabeth Chidothe, at large | ☒ Mitchel Hansen, at large |
| | | ☒ = present, E = excused |

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, Council Chair Pacheco opened the meeting at 6:05pm and called the regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:11 p.m.

Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment

The Dakota Land, Water, and People Acknowledgment was read by Torri Hampton.

Agenda approved

With no objections, CM Pacheco moved for the agenda to stand. Committee members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Agenda approved.**

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Michael Luseni, seconded by Astrid Benedetto to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public invitation

No public speakers registered or in attendance.

Information

- Better Bus Stops (Jenny Ackerson, Paul Lamb, Metro Transit)
- Jenny Ackerson/Paul Lamb (Presenter question to EAC) - We prioritize ADA improvements by corridor-wide limited mobility use and ridership. With this new ADA field data collected, how could we update this prioritization?
- CM Tyronne Carter – will there be an ongoing follow-up survey with disabled bus riders regarding their experience when using the bus stop and how we can improve it to make their experience better?
 - Jenny – Metro transit does do an annual rider survey. Contact information is provided on buses which yields feedback and complaints. We do hear ADA complaints and concerns through that avenue. Paul and I receive those, and we see how we can address it, if it's already on our radar, or if it's something that we can prioritize for the upcoming year.
 - Paul – We give a bi-annual presentation to Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee which is another touchpoint with that community.
- CM Tyronne Carter – is there a cost breakdown for the various types of bus stops by type (heated vs unheated, close sheltered vs. more open sheltered)?
 - Paul – we have rough costs, can vary by location based on required construction, rough estimates are:
 - \$5k-\$8k for accessibility pads
 - \$7k-\$12k for shelters, additional \$5k-\$8k if concrete pour required
 - \$5k for roof-mounted solar lights
 - \$8k-\$15k for lights if connected to city lights power source
 - \$20k for lights if connected to Xcel Energy power source
 - \$20k-\$40k for heat, requires connection to Xcel Energy power source
- Public Art (Mark Granlund, Public Art Administrator)
- Mark Granlund (Presenter question to EAC) - How do you see public art helping with engagement on topics you are concerned about?
 - CM Tyronne Carter – This is a wonderful program and I support it 1000%. I think public art raises awareness and concern and raises the level of engagement that you have. I think that public art represents positive public spirit at the highest level.
 - CM Pacheco – Second time we've had this presentation and across the board there's a lot of praise for what you're doing. Even if all it does is make you slow down to see what's around you, it does make a difference. Like you said about breakage of windows, some of that goes down when people take a real look at what they're seeing. Very helpful for the safety aspects it brings about.
 - Marquita Stephens – Great idea, executed well. Pleasure watching the presentation.
 - Brian Xiong – Thank you for the diverse artwork, it celebrates how diverse the community is. Thank you for the work you do to celebrate the community.
 - Michael Luseni – Proud of what I saw, beautiful work.



- CM Tyronne Carter - In some cities, they have identified taggers and made them part of the team where they help develop new public art.
 - MG – Part of trying out this new model of engagement with non-profits and neighborhoods is to engage with youth who if they're not the taggers, they know the taggers and the taggers know them. And creating a sense of ownership with the community so that tagging really is discouraged. If taggers have friends who have helped make the artwork they tend to not tag it.
- Marquita Stephens - Curious to know the process by which you select the artists to submit something for a particular location?
 - MG – Above \$25k, there is an RFI/RFP process to solicit input from artists and selection panel narrows submissions to 5 finalists and then proposals are solicited from finalists. Panel interviews finalists and reviews proposals before making selection. Smaller projects, we draw from a roster of more than 160 different artists (various mediums), MG pulls 7-9 artists that work in the desired medium, selection panel reviews 5 samples from each artist, and selection is made.
 - Marquita – do you only draw from area artists, or do you cast a wider net? For instance, do artists in one city get a chance to bid on work in another area/city?
 - MG - For the larger projects, we announce on our own site and via social media as well as through local artist collectives, cooperatives, and Springboard for the Arts.
- Mitchel Hansen – To me graffiti is art and it would be nice to remove barriers for local artists, is there a way we can reach out to taggers/artists to help them navigate the RFP process? Would love to be a part of making art more inclusive and breaking down barriers.
 - MG – For 7000 sq ft murals, there is a level of experience and knowledge required. For smaller projects/murals, we can work with less experienced local artists to create opportunities. As an example, we are working with a local artist to do the back of a bus route poster. We do have artists who have started with smaller projects and worked up to larger projects. One in particular has progressed from designing artwork for bus shelters to crossing houses to a signal communications house.
- Torri Hampton – How can EAC members sign up to get additional information on these projects?
 - MG – they can go to www.metrotransit.org/public-art-in-transit; that page has all the information about signing up for the roster, available opportunities, it's the best tool for people that want to learn about the program.
- CM Pacheco – Do you have a catalog or a book of the work you're doing that we can show others?
 - MG – Yes, I have a printed version of the work on the Blue Line and Green Line. I get like 500 printed at a time and if people are wanting them we can get them to you.

Announcement

- Discussion of communication preferences
 - Prefer minutes to contain more details of questions and responses or less? Consensus was to continue with questions and answers in minutes.
 - Request was made to get presentations one week prior to the meeting - difficult

to meet based on presenter's workload.

- New communication first week of the month – upcoming topic to be presented, overview of what's going on in the Council, such as other committee meetings, Council events, etc.
 - Would that be helpful? Consensus was to receive additional communication.
- CM Pacheco – would like a meeting with all 4 Council Members to discuss expectations and interests at the start of each year.
- Any committee members interested in being highlighted in WIRE? Requires biography, photo, and how you support/engage with EAC. Can increase interest and awareness of EAC members. Torri will send out a template via email.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Equity Advisory Committee meeting of June 16, 2026.

Approved this 21st day of July 2026.

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