Minutes

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: June 15, 2026 **Time**: 4:00 PM **Location:** 390 Robert Street

Members present:

☒ Chair, Robert Lilligren, D6
☐ Vice Chair, Toni Carter, D14
☒ Reva Chamblis, District 2
☐ Anjuli Cameron, District 8
☐ Diego Morales, District 9
☒ Peter Lindstrom, District 10
☒ Chai Lee, District 13
☐ Victor Obisakin, District 15
☒ Wendy Wulff, District 16
☒ = present

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 Lindstrom to approve the minutes of June 1, 2026, regular meeting of the Community Development Committee. **Motion carried**.

Consent business

Consent Business Adopted (Items 1-3)

1. **2026-103:** Baylor Park Regional Park Long Range Plan, Carver County (Colin Kelly) Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council:
    1) Approve the Baylor Regional Park Long-Range Plan.
    2) Advise Carver County to consider implementing the recommendations for land use and solar resources in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.
2. **2026-104:** City of Columbia Heights 4300 Central Avenue NE Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review File 21956-3 (Amber Turnquist) Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan

Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1) Authorize the City of Columbia Heights to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2) Find that the amendment does not change the City's forecasts.
3) Advise the City to implement the advisory comment in the Review Record for Transportation.

3. **2026-102:** City of Minnetrista Boll Property Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Review File 21758-6 (Shawn James) Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following actions:

1) Authorize the City of Minnetrista to place its comprehensive plan amendment into effect.
2) Find that the amendment does not change the City of Minnetrista's forecasts.
3) Revise the Imagine 2050 community designation from Diversified Rural to Suburban Edge for the amendment site as shown in Figure 2 in the Review Record.
4) Advise the City of Minnetrista to implement the advisory comments in the Review Record for Wastewater, Transportation, Forecasts, and Land Use.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business – Reports of standing committees

1. **2026-86**: Community Tree Planting Program Notice of Funding Availability (Gillian Greenberg)

Greenberg gave a presentation on the Community Tree Planting Program Notice of Funding Availability as outlined in the materials provided.

Chair Lilligren asked what the waiver is. Greenberg stated that this is part of the bonding process.

Lee asked what is meant by "vulnerable cities". Greenberg explained 5 index factors are considered that define a 'vulnerable city'.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Wulff, that the Metropolitan Council authorize fund distribution for the Community Tree Planting Program in two rounds, one each in 2026 and 2027.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Fiscal Disparities Program Update (Maia Guerrero-Combs, Sarah Rodman)

Guerrero-Combs and Rodman gave a program update on Fiscal Disparities as outlined in the materials provided.

Wulff clarified that property values are from 2025. Barajas confirmed, yes, from 2025 for 2026 tax rates.

Lindstrom asked, does this information go to the Legislature? Guerrero-Combs stated they do their own research.

2. Project Update on Research About Impacts of Metro Surge on Small Business and Regional Economy (Darcie Vandegrift, Baris Gumus-Dawes, and Asha Warsame)

Vandegrift, Gumus-Dawes, and Warsame introduced the start of a research project about the impacts of Metro Surge on small business and regional economy as outlined in the materials

provided.

Chair Lilligren asked, where are we today? Vandegrift stated there is some historical data that they are documenting. Warsame added that they'll go deeper. Vandegrift discussed hardships going forward and adjustments needed and looking at the ripple effects, which they'll talk about more in August. She also discussed understanding of other impacts.

Chamblis discussed information to be gained. Getting into data will help others understand the facts, myths, and contributing factors.

Lee discussed ongoing work and benefits.

Lindstrom discussed long term effects in his community He felt that economic impacts are measurable, but some will be difficult to measure.

Wulff asked if staff are talking to construction companies. Vandegrift stated one challenge is scoping questions with rigor, so no.

Wulff noted immigrant is a very broad term. Impacts vary so she asked, are staff looking into this. Vandegrift stated they are looking at geographic nodes and noted that they do not ask about immigration status, but it can come up in conversations, however, there have been less impacts on businesses that you may think.

Chair Lilligren would like to know how small businesses have contributed to Imagine 2050's vision for a dynamic and resilient region. He'd like to see more. He also discussed long-term effect he saw was more relationships that can overlap.

Lindstrom discussed small business building resiliency into your economy, i.e., towns with that great café or hardware store.

Wulff stated small businesses are essential. She asked how well small businesses feel supported to preserve vitality of those areas. Vandegrift stated we do have data to share about how small businesses feel supported that they could share.

3. 2027 CD Preliminary Operating Budget (Heather Giesel)

Giesel gave a presentation on the 2027 CD Preliminary Operating Budget as outlined in the materials provided.

Wulff stated she is having trouble processing all this information. She noted it would be nice to have more information in a written format, i.e., general fund money – where is it going. She would like to compare numbers to last year's budget.

Adjournment

Chair Lilligren reminded the Committee that the July 6, 2026 meeting has been canceled. Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:59 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 15, 2026.

Council contact:

Sandi Dingle, Recording Secretary
Sandi.dingle@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1312