

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

MINUTES

Members present:

BUESGENS, Mark
HIGGINS, Linda
HOLBERG, Mary Liz
HORNSTEIN, Frank
PETERSON, Neil
REITER, Mady
SCALZE, Bev
VANDEVEER, Ray
WIGER, Chuck

Members absent:

DAVNIE, Jim
DIBBLE, Scott
HANN, David
McGINN, Mike
MOUA, Mee

Senator Wiger called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

I. REVIEW OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S 2006 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Judd Schetnan, Met Council Director of Government Affairs, presented the following testifiers:

Arne Stefferud, Met Council Parks and Open Space Specialist, presented Governor's recommendation for '06 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Commission discussion followed.

Arlene McCarthy, Met Council Director of Transportation Services, presented Governor's recommendation for '06 Metro. Transit Capital Improvement Program.

Commission discussion followed.

Beth Widstrom-Anderson, Met Council Director of Finance and Administration, addressed the commission's questions regarding funds in Met Council's reserve.

Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer for Metro Transit, presented the Met Council's request to earn membership on the Statewide Radio Board.

Commission discussion followed.

Judd Schetnan, Met Council Director of Government Affairs, presented the Met Council's request to eliminate council's authority to do capital bonding reviews for school districts.

II. IMPACT OF TRANSIT CUTS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Adam Harrington, Manager of Route & System Planning for Metro Transit, testified on the cuts made to public transit, why those cuts were made and how those cuts affected low-income areas.

Commission discussion followed.

Tim Thompson, Attorney for Minneapolis Legal Aid Society, testified about their investigations on the transit cuts to assure they were distributed fairly.

Commission discussion followed.

Nicholas Wallace, researcher from the University of Minnesota Research Institute on Race and Poverty, presented his findings on transit cuts in North Minneapolis.

Damone Presley, representative from the Minneapolis Urban League, discussed their advocacy for fewer transit cuts in areas of poverty.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Due to time constraints, the commission will discuss affordable housing needs and bringing the MAC under the oversight of the LCMG at their next hearing.

The next meeting date is TBA.

MOTION to adjourn. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.