



Resolution 2024-75

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST DEFINITION

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis parks;

Whereas, On March 27, 2019, the Board of Commissioners adopted the current Community Engagement Policy (CE Policy), which was the result of more than a year of work with community and MPRB staff;

Whereas, On July 20, 2022, the Board of Commissioners amended the CE Policy to include additional trainings for members of the public serving on committees, along with processes for dismissal of committee members;

Whereas, The current CE Policy includes a definition for conflict of interest;

Whereas, The current definition does not clarify that the financial benefit needs to be in relation to the work of the committee for which the individual is appointed;

Whereas, The proposed amendment seeks to clarify that a conflict of interest occurs when appointee's financial interests are directly related to the scope or charge of the committee; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, under Goal 1: "Foster belonging and equity;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners amends the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Community Engagement Policy's conflict of interest definition; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

FROM: Jennifer Ringold, Deputy Superintendent on Behalf of Commissioner Musich

DATE: April 24, 2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST DEFINITION

BACKGROUND

This action considers a change in conflict of interest definition within the Community Engagement Policy (CE Policy) (*Attachment A*). This change would clarify that a conflict of interest occurs for a committee appointee when they receive a direct financial benefit from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and when that benefit is related to the charge or scope of the committee to which they are appointed. The proposed definition would apply to Community Advisory Committees and MPRB Advisory Committees.

Below are the current and proposed definitions for Conflict of Interest on page 6 of the CE Policy.

CURRENT

Conflict of Interest: A member, committee member, officer or employee of the Board shall not have an interest, directly or indirectly, in any purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Board is a party. Commissioners shall advise the President and the Board if any matter coming before the Board presents a potential conflict of interest and may seek the advice of the Board attorney on how to disclose an actual conflict.

PROPOSED

Conflict of Interest: For Community Advisory Committees and MPRB Advisory Committees, a conflict of interest exists when a committee member or committee chair receives direct personal financial benefit from the decisions made within the scope and/or charge of the committee. Personal financial benefit may occur, directly and indirectly, through different contractual relationships such as a purchase, sale, lease or contract to which the Board is a party. For Commissioners and employees, conflict of interest is defined in [Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Code of Ordinances: Chapter 1. Section 1-6. Ethics in Government. Section \(d\) Conflicts of Interest and in state law.](#)

Legal Counsel has reviewed this proposed change in language.



PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

February 20, 2019	Resolution 2019-116: Resolution Approving the Community Engagement Policy
July 20, 2022	Resolution 2022-219: Resolution Approving the Board-Directed Amendments to the Community Engagement Policy that Clarify and Strengthen Expectations Related to Ethics, Conflict of Interest, Reporting, and Dismissals for MPRB-Appointed Committees, Commissions, and Boards

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners amend the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Community Engagement Policy's conflict of interest definition.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036.

Goal:

01. Foster belonging and equity

Strategy:

09. Continue to evolve and practice creative community engagement processes to be more inclusive and representative of diverse populations and recognize community members for their wisdom, insight and feedback.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A - CE Policy Revisions

Jbr 4.24.2024.