

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

Atlas-Ingebretson, Gonzalez, Muse

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Atlas-Ingebretson, Gonzalez, Muse

Not Recorded: 1 Sterner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Lee to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2020 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Atlas-Ingebretson, Gonzalez, Muse

Not Recorded: 1 Sterner

INFORMATION

1. Solar Technical Assistance in the Region (Cameran Bailey, Senior Planner, Community Development)

Cameran Bailey, senior planner in the Local Planning Assistance group in Community Development, provided an overview of solar technical assistance programs at the Council. The solar technical assistance programs incorporate solar and resilience into the everyday work of the Council. They provide technical assistance and review for Livable Communities accounts, environmental reviews, and comprehensive plans. This improves the consistency and clarity of the Council's solar implementation.

One of the flagship solar programs is the SolSmart Best Practices Program. SolSmart is a nationally administered program by the Solar Foundation, explicitly developed to help government agencies with permitting, planning and zoning. The Council is administering the program for the region to develop solar technical assistance capacity. The Council is the first metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the country to be designated and has provided a model for other MPOs across the country to become designated as well. SolSmart increases the ability of communities to inventory and elevate national and local solar energy profiles.

The Council also serves as an application reviewer for the City of Minneapolis' Green Cost Share program, specifically the Solar Production Incentive Program. The Council has also been a part of the Minnesota Solar Pathways Technical Committee. This is a multi-sector, multi-agency, state-wide research project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Council also participates as reviewer of various solar grants with the U.S. Department of Energy and as a part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Solar PV Recycling Committee, as well as numerous other partnerships. They also provide education and outreach, as well as support university partnerships.

Council members had questions and comments about solar for vouchers, SolSmart, and goals to increase participation. Council Member Zeran discussed the labor component to this program, and how can solar projects can leverage bringing workers into the workplace, as well as prevailing wage and how it can be incorporated into solar and other projects at the Council. Council Member Vento would be interested to attend engagement and educational sessions to see how solar programs can benefit the region. Council Member Lindstrom mentioned that one of the goals of the Council was to provide resources to the community for increased sustainability efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary