

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Chair Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

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, April 21, 2021 on the following roll call vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Cummings, Gonzalez, Zeran

Not Recorded: 1 Atlas-Ingebretson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Cummings, Gonzalez, Zeran

Not Recorded: 1 Atlas-Ingebretson

INFORMATION

1. Update on the Agency-Wide Climate Action Plan

Eric Wojchik, Planning Analyst, Community Development; Sara Smith, Business Unit Manager, Environmental Services; and Jeff Freeman, Senior Project Coordinator, Metro Transit, gave an update on the agency-wide Climate Action Plan. Lisa Barajas, Director, Community Development, introduced the speakers and gave an overview of the plan. The Council's objective with regard to sustainability is building a resilient region that mitigates its adverse contribution to climate change—with a focus on degraded air and water quality—and meets the challenge of the climate crisis. This is an inter-divisional team, with approximately 10 members from all divisions of the Council.

The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to unify efforts across the Council to reduce climate impacts and prepare for a changing climate. The Climate Action Plan will define strategies that will strengthen the ability to plan and deliver services to the region through leadership, collaboration, and stewardship. The Climate Action Plan integrates with Council policies and initiatives; it will protect regional vitality for generations to come and it will recognize institutional and systemic barriers and will create access and opportunities that benefit all.

Smith shared a high-level project timeline. The goal will be to implement the plan by the second quarter of 2022; the project is currently still in the development stage of the plan. Currently the project team is conducting work group interviews across all divisions of the Council and have interviewed over 200 employees. The purpose of this work is to identify gaps in work and the potential for new and continued commitments, as well as to establish a foundation for plan strategies. Common themes have emerged from these interviews, though these themes are not all-encompassing. Environmental Services is focusing on mitigation by reducing emissions and energy use, energy recovery and renewable sources, and electrification through electric vehicles. Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit are focused on adaptation through designing and constructing new facilities, as well as route planning. Community Development is working within resilience by building in technical assistance to local communities and other sustainable collaborations.

The Climate Action Project Team will be hiring a consultant to assist with project administration, technical assistance, and integration of an environmental justice framework into the plan. The consultant will support the Council with the scope, formulation, goal-setting, feedback, and adoption of an organization-wide, results-focused Climate Action Plan.

Wojchik and Barajas then led the Council Members in a facilitated discussion about the following two questions: 1) How would you like to be informed and engaged with on this project? and 2) What does a successful Council Climate Action Plan look like in the short and long-term? Council Member Vento recommended sharing more information in both the Chair's Daily Report email as well as at the committee level. Council Members also asked to see a high-level summary of the comments received from staff interviews. Council Members also suggested forming a Climate Change Workgroup. Council Members had questions and comments about measures and actions, how the agency is setting the curve for the region over time, and the resiliency of the Climate Action Plan over time.

Council Member Vento acknowledged the passing of Vice President Walter Mondale and his impact on social justice and the environment.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary