

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Phillip Klein, Marvin Johnson, Chip Halbach, Karl Drotning, Bill Droste, Pamela Harris, Kathi Hemken, Kathi Mocol, Jennifer Geisler, Elizabeth Wefel, Jon Commers, James Saefke, Kristina Smitten, James McClean,

Committee Members Absent:

Bill Neuendorf, Michael Webb, and Jamil Ford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

In the absence of a quorum, Chair Commers asked to delay the approval of the past minutes until a quorum was present. The Committee chose to proceed with the agenda as presented.

INFORMATION

Planit Update – Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Torres gave an update on the Planit program, outlined in the materials provided, that was implemented in May. She outlined the implementation including webinars, workshops, tutorials, expert articles, and a conference to be held December 13, 2016, at the Earl Brown Center. She noted that there is a brochure regarding the conference on the Planit page of the Local Planning Handbook.

Torres discussed the 2017 program as outlined in the materials provided.

Halbach questioned the three big lessons learned for 2016. Torres stated staff found that people are interested, appreciative, and feel the Council has done a good job.

Halbach asked if the equity activities coming up for 2017 is available. Torres stated not yet. She noted that staff are currently developing a survey to help plan the program going forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

With a quorum now present, Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the minutes presented.

A motion was made by Wefel, seconded by Klein, to approve the May 19, 2016, minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Wefel, seconded by Klein, to approve the July 21, 2016, minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Wefel, seconded by Klein, to approve the September 15, 2016, minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

Planning Resources for Climate Resilience – Lisa Barajas, Local Planning Assistance

Barajas gave a presentation on planning resources for climate resilience. She reviewed the climate vulnerability assessment (CVA) being worked on currently and the objectives of that project as outlined in the materials provided. She

discussed the landscape heat vulnerability map for the seven-county metro. She also discussed localized flood map and the next steps for the CVA.

Halbach asked how will this tie into the comprehensive plans. Barajas stated there are lessons to be learned in local land planning and this will make resources available so communities can use data to do their own localized assessments.

Barajas discussed building in resilience training and other collaborations and training outlined in the materials provided.

Halbach asked the group how the topic of solar energy is coming up in their communities. Harris stated they are part of a solar garden project. Klein responded that they have just passed a solar ordinance. Hemken and Saefke noted that they have not discussed this yet. Harris stated that it has been a good investment for them. Smitten stated they are updating ordinances. Drotning noted property in Farmington where equipment is going in.

Barajas discussed balancing regarding land use.

Smitten discussed 'forest' referring to trees that create a canopy. Barajas stated that we can look at that and do analysis on where ash trees are as well as adaptation and using resources to provide good information and collaboration with forest service.

Smitten asked if Green Step Cities are engaged and is it being looked at as an incentive. Barajas responded that staff have worked with Green Step Cities and will continue to do so wherever there is an opportunity to make resources available.

Commers thanked Barajas and stated he feels it is very helpful to share information.

Draft 2017 Work Plan for Discussion – Jon Commers

Commers discussed the 2017 Work Plan and stated that he feels there's an interesting opportunity as comprehensive plans are getting under way. He feels the 'stars have aligned' in regards to the Work Plan. He discussed the goals of the Work Plan outlined in the materials provided as well as topics proposed for the 2017 Work Plan.

Hemken stated that at the Regional Council of Mayors (to which she belongs) they have talked about affordable housing but not about homelessness. She feels it would be good to have a regional discussion about this.

Halbach discussed unsubsidized affordable markets and the need to look at these as well as subsidized markets. Commers asked how would this group help with this. Halbach stated that local policies preserve affordability. In part – looking at inventory of affordable housing across the region and where intervention may be needed.

Commers asked Hemken for her thoughts. Hemken stated there's a lot of resistance from citizens on why it needs to be available. She also discussed zoning and construction.

Klein stated we need to look at what is needed to qualify for federal grants – certain criteria cannot be met.

Hemken stated that the conversation needs to happen. If we are building a shelter in Hugo – how do they get to work? She feels a conversation would be helpful.

Harris discussed underlying financing issues.

Drotning discussed infrastructure needed (transportation) to score well to get funding.

Commers asked if there were other topics the Committee wished to explore.

Halbach commented on economic competitiveness – thinking about economic nodes and stated there may be some value to continuing that discussion.

Detrick stated that plan is to look at what the Council is doing. She noted that economic competitiveness is not a requirement in the Comprehensive Plan but is encouraged. She stated this topic will be brought back.

Klein discussed internet services. Detrick stated this is not a required element and goes beyond the requirements of the Land Planning Act.

Commers discussed the Council's work with Greater MSP looking at Industry Clusters and looked into broadband and fiber availability. He felt if there is someone who can provide input it would be a valuable conversation.

Saefke discussed water and reuse and asked how active others' watershed districts are. He discussed working being done at the Mississippi Watershed District.

Commers discussed prior work he's done at the University of Minnesota that re-uses gray water.

Smitten discussed Atlas 14 precipitation data that looks at rain events and is updated. Barajas stated that staff refer to this data in their reviews. She noted they could coordinate with Environmental Services staff and review the new data and look at broader planning resources.

Saefke stated the 100-year rainfall event is now more like a 10-year rainfall event. Barajas agreed and discussed data in Atlas 14 that there are increasing rainfall events.

Smitten discussed land use planning that can compensate/absorb rain events.

Drotning discussed developing expectations through past practices while water tables have risen.

Commers reviewed topics discussed including:

- Relationships w/watershed districts
- Use of park use
- Interest in economic competitiveness
- Interest in full range of affordable housing including homelessness

Smitten stated that it would be helpful to know what the Council is tackling so we can give good feedback.

Commers stated that a revised workplan will be sent out so this can be revisited at our next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting – January 19, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary