

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Chip Halbach, James Saefke, Jennifer Geisler, Phillip Klein, Karl Drotning, Jon Commers, Elizabeth Wefel, Bill Droste, Bill Neuendorf, Jamil Ford, Marvin Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Kathi Mocol, James McClean, Pamela Harris, Kristina Smitten, and Kathi Hemken

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. It was motioned by Klein and seconded by Droste. **The motion was approved.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the July 20, 2017, minutes. It was motioned by Wefel and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes as presented. **The motion was approved.**

INFORMATION

Regional Vision for Water and One Water Presentation – Leisa Thompson, Environmental Services

Thompson gave an overview of Environmental Services (ES) role in the region for a historical and future-looking perspective. She also highlighted the challenges and successes that have gotten us to today and explored the need for an integrated water management approach that is often referred to as “One Water.” She explained what “One Water” is and institutional challenges for “One Water” collaboratives. She reviewed recent examples and opportunities for collaborations outlined in the materials provided.

Commers asked Thompson to highlight points that interact with land use decisions.

Klein stated as a member of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) as well as LUAC he felt there is an opportunity to work together and look at how water interjoins with development. He feels working together benefits all.

Halbach asked where we will be five years from now. Klein stated we need to have discussions and feels heavy lifting will be at the Legislature. This issue has a lot of moving parts and will take more than five years.

Ford discussed innovative solutions that could reduce contaminating water and asked if staff are looking at forward-thinking technology. Thompson responded, yes, and stated partners are needed to gather and share information.

Geisler asked about meetings. Thompson discussed ‘Town Hall Meetings’ that are laying the ground work for more collaboration and partnerships.

Drotning discussed comprehensive plan work. Thompson stated that as we are starting to review plans, we are looking at “One Water” thinking.

Barajas discussed managing water resources and how do we help communities look better.

PlanIt Water Management Tools: Going Beyond the Comprehensive Plan – Karen Jensen, Environmental Services, and Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Torres and Jensen gave a PlanIt update and stated that they held a workshop on September 12, 2017, outlined in the materials provided. They thanked the Committee for their input prior to the workshop that helped to make it a success. They stated that the comments were overwhelming – positive comments around the variety of topics/speakers. The event was very well received and appreciated.

Commers stated this is a great demonstration of how this committee can contribute to the work of Council staff.

Neuendorf asked if there will be follow-up workshops. Torres stated that sector representatives will respond to communities, comprehensive plans coming in, and staff will update resources in the Local Planning Handbook.

Commers discussed elements recorded. Torres stated that Pigeon Hole Live equipment was used for Q&A. She noted staff are also going through questions not addressed and will be putting those online.

Droste commented that cities could use a booklet that shows some of this information on water to make elected officials more knowledgeable to work with Legislators.

Ford suggested educating our youth on these issues. Jensen noted that the Metropolitan Council does participate in a water festival held at the State Fair Grounds (coming up this fall).

Transportation Policy Plan (TPP): Performance Measures – Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Vennewitz gave a presentation on performance measures in the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) as outlined in the materials provided. She passed out a list of performance measures containing 6 goals and strategies and discussed the 6th goal in particular that talked about leveraging transportation investments to help guide land use as it related most to the work of this committee.

Neuendorf asked about the goal of ‘Healthy Environment’ and the scope of this goal going beyond air quality. He discussed lids. Vennewitz stated that we have to be careful to measure at the system level and track over time.

Geisler discussed measuring things – are we doing something that hurts? She discussed unintended consequences and stated that the goal is to maintain community. Vennewitz suggested applications of measures can be used at many levels and suggested performance-based planning.

Geisler discussed balance and asked how do you plan to move cars at the expense of community. Vennewitz suggested looking over access measures and stated she would welcome suggestions/feedback.

Halbach discussed ‘targets’ and stated that the equity comment is very important. He suggested being clear that each of these will have an equity lense.

Droste discussed the Mississippi River and removing freight and rail. Vennewitz stated that the intent is to track if we are losing some of this in a way that affects our competitiveness.

Steve Elmer, Transportation Services, discussed maintaining what we have and the need for river/barge traffic.

Ford discussed south of Hennepin Avenue and where the lock and dam closed due to Asian Carp and questioned the effects. He discussed looking at the river and trying to increase the amount of green space. He would like to see more opportunity for greenspace.

Commers discussed resurgence of barge and rail usage.

Neuendorf asked about on/off-ramps on freeways and how it can hinder growth when you can't go one direction. Vennewitz stated that in terms of 'access to jobs' they measure the region as a whole.

Commers commented that he felt all the goals intersect with land use. He suggested additional comments be sent in.

Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) – Bike and Pedestrian Chapter – Steve Elmer, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Elmer gave a presentation providing an overview of the bicycle/pedestrian chapter as outlined in the materials provided. He discussed current TPP bike/pedestrian objectives and strategies that relate to land use planning concepts.

Commers discussed data collection regarding safer/dangerous corridors. He discussed pedestrian safety issues in his district and felt that having data could be very powerful – also good for prioritizing funding.

Ford stated he is interested in demographics – who is involved in these accidents. He discussed partnering with police departments and offering helmet programs as well as other partnerships. He discussed importance of safety on busy roads and also the bikers' experience.

Wefel thanked Elmer for his work on this.

Neuendorf discussed increased density of developments and need to look at all communities.

Resiliency Strategies for Local Comprehensive Plan / Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Interactive Localized Flooding Map (CVA) – Eric Wojchik, Local Planning Assistance

Chair Commers, in the interest of time, asked if Eric Wojchik could come back and present at our next meeting in November.

Recruitment for LOAC Openings – Jon Commers, Chair

Chair Commers discussed districts 3 and 4 (Carver) and their vacancies. He asked the committee for their help with recruitment.

Detrick added if members have suggestions on how to make people aware of openings, that advice would be helpful as well.

Klein suggested outreach to City's websites, newsletters, etc.

Ford suggested other Metropolitan Council Board/Committee members may be interested in serving on more than one Committee.

Geisler stated that possible folks serving as alternates from other committees may be interested.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Next Meeting – September 21, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary