

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Chair Wendy Wulff, Renae Clark, Karl Drotning, Phillip Klein, Marvin Johnson, James McClean, Kristina Smitten, Jamil Ford, Jennifer Geisler

Committee Members Absent:

James Saefke, Gerald Bruner, Chip Halbach, Bill Droste, Bill Neuendorf, Elizabeth Wefel, Kathi Hemken

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wulff called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:12 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Wulff introduced herself and gave her history with the Metropolitan Council including a previous committee appointment to LUAC and now serving in her 5th term as a Council Member. The Committee members then briefly introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Wulff noted that there was not a quorum present, so she postponed the approval of the agenda and minutes until a quorum of members.

INFORMATION

Emerging Themes from 2040 Comprehensive Plans – Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Torres gave a presentation on emerging themes from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Updates as outlined in the materials provided.

Smitten asked if communities that have been found incomplete are expecting it and if it is communicated in a positive way. Torres stated, yes, and noted that the tone is offered in an assistance mode, and communities have been told all along that incomplete letters are to be expected.

Smitten asked how communities are responding. Torres stated that it has been mixed but noted communities have been responsive to and accepting of technical assistance.

Geisler asked about the level of incompleteness. Torres stated that none have completely missed a chapter, however, some have been missing elements within areas such as housing, wastewater, etc.

Chair Wulff discussed the level of respect and tools offered to communities.

Drotning discussed timelines as plans are resubmitted. Boylan discussed his assistance with city planners and consultants.

Barajas added that a lot of what staff is doing is clarifying questions. She noted we do not change a city's policies, etc. but try to give examples. She noted however that staff does not tell cities what to do.

Torres discussed economic competitiveness being addressed in plans. She discussed tracked resilience components and also additional tasks being done.

Torres talked about what they will be doing with the emerging trends that they find and how they will share this information and develop technical resources.

Regional Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Project Update – Eric Wojchik, Local Planning Assistance

Wojchik gave a project update of the regional Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). He discussed questions presented in the materials provided. He noted that there have been 15 mega rain events since 1866 and over half of those have been since 2002.

Chair Wulff discussed snow events and asked how we're planning for this. Barajas discussed our projections on existing data and not looking at the future or how much more it will change. However, staff have discussed snow versus rain and began to think about how to plan infrastructure in the future.

Chair Wulff discussed how to deal with major snow events and gave the example of Montreal using equipment to melt snow.

Ford discussed policy decisions based on the matrix and also felt educated studies could help – showing best practices.

Wojchik discussed freeze/thaw events and the effects of this.

Clark discussed old, undersized infrastructure and a detailed tool to show modeling from the Met Council could help. She felt that many cities have information but having the Met Council collect it and be the overarching umbrella for the region would be helpful.

Geisler discussed the life expectancy of roads due to climate change and how models may be outdated.

Klein suggested staff offer ideas on how cities could better manage snow events and also be proactive in clearing catch basins in high priority areas before it happens. He discussed parks flooding is not always a bad thing.

Smitten discussed how to use this tool as our infrastructure is undersized. She noted we do need to think more regionally and where to invest.

Wojchik discussed extreme heat events and looking at variables that increase the heat. He discussed the lack of tree cover and when they're removed (i.e., ash trees) the heat index will be increased.

Geisler discussed how cities need to plan by requiring diversifying species of trees being put in.

Wojchik discussed next steps and referred back to the questions in the handouts. He asked for suggestions on the best ways to communicate these resources.

Klein asked what has worked in the past. Wojchik discussed monthly information going out to mostly planners and added they may need to send it to public works as well.

Ford discussed design strategies and how to be more creative and thoughtful and proactive going forward. He also asked how we can provide best management practices moving forward 100 years.

Geisler felt two core audiences are planners and developers. She felt the next level is to appointed and elected officials. She felt they are not considering development with the climate in mind.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

With a quorum now present, Chair Wulff asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2019 agenda. It was motioned by Geisler and seconded by Klein. **The motion was approved.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

With a quorum now present, Chair Wulff asked for a motion to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes. It was motioned by Klein and seconded by Geisler. **The motion was approved.**

INFORMATION (continued)

Land Use Advisory Committee and Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) Collaboration – Lanya Ross, Water Supply Planning, Environmental Services

Ross discussed growing collaboration between MAWSAC and LUAC and what is coming out of this. She stated there is a lot of discussion about sharing and promoting best practices. She discussed a workshop held just prior to this meeting about drinking water source protection.

Klein added it was a good meeting. He talked about the assumption that the drinking water we have is safe to drink. Wulff discussed testing done and said municipal water is safe.

Ford discussed recapturing runoff to be used in times of drought. He discussed frost depths and capturing snow melt.

Ross discussed better practices that could be put on landscapes to capture runoff.

Chair Wulff discussed water from drain tiles that has nutrients that we don't want in our rivers but we would want back on our fields.

Ross talked about potential impacts of changing patterns between rainfall vs. snowfall and where we are getting the most. She discussed evaporation in the summer and effects of climate change. She noted that aquifer recharge comes more from frost going out and melting snow soaking into the ground.

Ford discussed the effects downstream and elsewhere and how we can be good stewards. He related this to federal resources and how other communities can benefit from our efforts.

Smitten asked how all agencies involved work together.

Klein felt the goal is to have a toolbox that contains information from all areas.

Clark feels this is a regional issue and suggested bringing all agencies together to send a message collectively.

Ross stated MAWSAC has memberships from all agencies and feels having a relationship of MAWSAC and LUAC working together is a great collaboration.

Geisler agreed and stated she feels the combination of LUAC and MAWSAC is key.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary