

Minutes

Committee of the Whole



Meeting Date: April 6, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- E Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- E Deb Barber, District 4
- Molly Cummings, District 5

- E John Pacheco, District 6
- Robert Lilligren, District 7
- Abdirahman Muse, District 8
- Raymond Zeran, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Susan Vento, District 11

- Francisco Gonzalez, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- E Kris Fredson, District 14
- Phillip Sterner, District 15
- E Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excuse

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Vice Chair Cummings called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council’s Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m. on the following roll call.

Present	11	Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Zeran
Absent	5	Barber, Fredson, Pacheco, Wulff, Zeran

Agenda Approved

Vice Chair Cummings noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a Council Member offered an amendment to the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council’s Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	11	Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	5	Barber, Fredson, Pacheco, Wulff, Zeran

Information

1. Comp Plan Composite: Equity in Planning

Angela Torres, Manager, Local Planning Assistance, and Katelyn Champoux, Associate Planner, Local Planning Assistance, shared an update on Comp Plan process and equity in planning. The purpose of this presentation was to prepare a foundation for upcoming work on the 2050 Regional Development Guide and to report out what has been learned from local comprehensive plans. Local plans reflect regional policies; they also include land use, climate change, resilience, and

natural resources where the Council's policies provide direction to local planning efforts. Three questions guided this research: Are local governments addressing equity in 2040 Comprehensive Plans? Which communities are addressing equity? How are communities talking about equity in their comprehensive plans? Research consisted of a review of 162 comp plans for explicit statements about equity. The review was completed using six search terms: equity, inequity, equitable, inequitable, equities, and inequities. Plans were assigned a score from zero to three based on the extent to which they incorporate and address equity. Five general findings were identified in the analysis: there is a broad spectrum for addressing equity in comprehensive plans; there seems to be a shared understanding of equity issues in the region; the themes of "access" and "health" emerged in the data; there is a recurring discussion of equity in parks, transportation, and housing elements; there is stronger equity content in plans from more urbanized communities. Other recurring themes were the advancement of equity in local processes; considering equity in emerging transportation technology; and leveraging data and tools. The next steps in the process are to provide context for the 2050 regional planning discussion, and to introduce local planning stories as a concept.

Council Members had questions and comments regarding the large scope of the planning process as well as disparities, poverty and inequity in smaller communities and townships, cities that have specific equity plans, and the necessity of a continuous review process. Council Member Cummings shared information from a survey that was sent out from the Regional Council of Mayors regarding race-equity work. CM Cummings shared that cities are looking at the difference between the equity of outcome and the equity of opportunity. Council Members also shared comments regarding equitable access to parks, and asked how the information and findings from this research are shared with cities.

Michael Larson, Planning Analyst, Local Planning Assistance, introduced questions for the Council Members to consider, including: What are the region's values? What is the region's vision? What are high-level outcomes we want to achieve? Council Member Lee suggested considering the resilience of communities. Council Member Vento shared information about Braver Angels, an organization that is working nationwide to help people of different viewpoints communicate with each other.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of April 6, 2022.

Approved this 20th day of April 2022.

Council Contact:

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