

## Minutes of the

### MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 17, 2014

#### Committee Members Present:

Jon Commers, Bill Neuendorf, Chip Halbach, Phillip Klein, Marvin Johnson, Elizabeth Wefel, Kathi Hemken, Bill Droste, Mary Hershberger-Thun, Aimie Mims, Elizabeth Kautz, Andrew Hestness

#### Committee Members Absent:

Kristina Smitten, Amy Ihlan, Colleen Ratzlaff-Labeau, Tami Diehm, James McClean,

#### CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2014.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Kautz, seconded by Droste to approve the agenda of the July 17, 2014 Meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Kautz, seconded by Klein to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 special meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee. **Motion carried.**

#### INFORMATION

##### **Conformance, Consistency, and Compatibility in Local Comprehensive Plans – Lisa Barajas, Local Planning Assistance**

Barajas presented on the subject of conformance, consistency, and compatibility as outlined in the memorandum provided.

Hershberger-Thun stated that this memo or something like it would be very helpful to communities when they start their 10 year planning process.

Kautz spoke to the climate change piece and noted that there may be some push-back because the Metropolitan Council is not statutorily authorized to enforce this. She liked the inclusion of the statutory authority with the memo.

Commers stated the Council feedback received has been that they needed to play a stronger role in climate change.

Halbach discussed fair housing and the equity direction the Council is taking. He discussed federal laws related to fair housing. He asked how fair housing charge is carried out. He asked that if system statements are the highest level driver, shouldn't they invoke fair housing language.

Barajas discussed system plans and the Council's statutory authority and noted that housing is not one of them. At this point none of the system plans are linked to fair housing. She noted, big picture, generally communities need to address affordable housing in their plans.

Halbach stated this is a big issue and of interest to the Council as a whole. We'll have to see how it plays out in the system plans.

Kautz discussed how at Metro Cities they've asked citizens to be a part of the Housing Policy Plan development. She also discussed existing stock of affordable housing that needs to be counted as well. Halbach agreed and stated the City Housing Workgroup has much city representation.

## **Progress on Regional Systems and Policy Plans and Upcoming Milestones – Jon Commers**

Commers gave an update on the progress on Regional Systems and Policy Plans and upcoming milestones as outlined in the graphic provided.

Connie Kozlak noted that the Transportation Policy Plan has been delayed to mid-August.

Halbach clarified that the Policy Plans are the same as System Statements. Commers stated no, they are the same as System Plans. He noted System Statements are tailored to individual cities.

## **Changes (highlighted in yellow) to Land Use and Local Planning in the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan – Connie Kozlak, Cole Hiniker, and John Kari, Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Hiniker presented changes to the Land Use and Local Planning in the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) as highlighted in materials provided.

Commers stated he is interested in feedback on pages 80-81 and discussed the need to be clear with local partners.

Neuendorf felt the table is helpful to local planning departments with uses and design features.

Hiniker asked if Commissioners felt there are things missing or things that shouldn't be near transit stations.

Halbach appreciated pg. 82 regarding maintaining and increasing affordable housing options. He shared concerns about inequitable distribution of bus stops and shelters and asked if this shows up in the TPP. Hiniker stated that the Council did a transit equity plan separate from the TPP. He stated that typically at the policy plan level we don't get down to that level of detail.

Halbach asked if the transit equity plan will be part of the System Statements. Kozlak responded that they will not be a part of the long range plans but part of operation.

Hershberger-Thun stated the language in the table on page 80 was confusing. Hiniker stated they will look at this language.

Droste suggested putting numbers around data; he feels this would be helpful. Commers agreed and referred to Table 4.

Wefel asked about identifying ways to make more pedestrian friendly. Hiniker discussed street design itself and noted it will be more of a TOD guide.

Kautz discussed complete streets. Hiniker discussed designing streets and designing for all users.

Neuendorf asked are there guidelines / suggestions for existing transit routes.

Hiniker discussed table on page 77 that looks at corridors of high density and high-frequency bus routes. Transit plan discusses importance of these elements. He noted that the TPP will be out for public comment on 8/13.

Commers noted staff would send a message to this group when it is available.

## **Local Planning Handbook – Angela Torres, Freya Thamman, and Raya Esmaeili, Local Planning Assistance**

Torres gave a presentation on the Local Planning Handbook (handbook) update as outlined in the materials provided. She gave an overview and discussed the process and timeline for the handbook update. She reviewed the planners survey that was done and comments that were received.

Esmaeili review the tools to be included in the updated handbook.

Thamman discussed the development of a resource library for communities. She noted staff would love feedback from LUAC on this.

Hershberger-Thun noted that there are many parts of the comprehensive plan that do not need to be changed. She suggested it might help to talk about this so they don't feel the need to re-invent the wheel. Thamman agreed and felt it needs to be stressed that this is an 'update' and not a 're-write'.

Kautz commended staff on this work. She asked if staff would be open to coming to a workshop to review this with city staff, elected officials, etc. Torres stated they would love to.

Barajas added they're putting together a workgroup to talk about streamlining the process. She also noted sector reps are always available to come to cities to help in their planning process.

Halbach commented that this is good stuff. In terms of participation, there are different strategies for bringing minorities and others into the mix. Under the Land Use Planning Act is a list of actions steps to address the need for affordable housing. He asked what is being done in this regard.

Barajas responded that the Council will have the Housing Policy Plan to offer guidance. In the past, staff were able to identify communities that did well and can offer those as tools/resources for others who may need assistance. She noted that the Council has hired two Housing Policy Analysts that will also be helpful in this regard.

Droste commented on the facts sheets and stated he is interested in what is being put into them. Thamman stated that at this point staff haven't started but are interested in what people want to know.

Droste stated that success stories would be very helpful. Torres asked for any specific examples and asked committee members to share as part of their community success portion.

Hemken asked why comprehensive plans come out 8 years after the census. Barajas stated that it is the starting point to updating our system plans and issuing system statements. Communities then have three years to update their plans. The Council will provide updated projections for household forecasts, populations, employment etc. in the 2015 System Statements.

Thamman stated that they've heard from communities that an information graphic would be helpful to give a timeline snapshot of the process. Hemken stated that would be helpful.

Neuendorf discussed tools and suggested tools/resources focused towards citizens.

Droste discussed accuracy of data at different levels explaining how, when, and what's changed can be helpful.

Torres stated that staff will come back to the committee for more feedback as the process progresses.

### **Planning Assistance Fund – Lisa Barajas, Local Planning Assistance**

Barajas gave a presentation on the planning assistance fund for Local Comprehensive Planning and noted this is for background information and that staff would be looking for feedback at a future meeting.

Commers noted he appreciates everyone's time and expertise.

**Next Meeting** – September 18, 2014

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary