

## Minutes of the

### MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 17, 2018

#### Committee Members Present:

Chip Halbach, Phillip Klein, Karl Drotning, Jon Commers, Bill Neuendorf, Bill Droste, Kristina Smitten, Marvin Johnson, Kathi Mocol, Gerald Bruner, James Saefke, and Jennifer Geisler

#### Committee Members Absent:

Jamil Ford, James McClean, Elizabeth Wefel, Renae Clark, and Kathi Hemken

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2018.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the May 17, 2018, agenda. It was motioned by Neuendorf and seconded by Klein. **The motion was approved.**

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the March 15, 2018, minutes. It was motioned by Bruner and seconded by Klein. **The motion was approved.**

#### INFORMATION

**Regional Parks Policy Plan Update: Community Engagement and Regional Balance** – Dan Marckel, Regional Policy & Research, and Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Marckel and Mullin gave a presentation on the Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP) Update, including community engagement, regional balance and making investments across the region, as outlined in the materials provided.

Neuendorf asked if community engagement was done parallel to comprehensive plan community engagement. Marckel stated it was not and noted that they are looking to engage individuals not previously engaged.

Halbach asked if there are any big issues that stood out during the public engagement process. Mullin discussed some, including smaller agencies feel funding formula favors more dense areas – more developed parks. He stated that equity is also a hot topic.

Marckel discussed how equity (new in 2015) is now being discussed at a greater level. Marckel referenced learning what is working and working at how to incorporate a broader range of activities in park usage. Mullin discussed balancing conservation with access – i.e., river.

Geisler asked what is being done to integrate this plan with Transportation Policy Plan or land use plans. Commers noted that integration is a requirement. Marckel gave examples of how this works, for instance, with regional trails and bicycle networks.

Drotning asked about differences with developed systems and developing systems. Marckel stated this is a great segue to regional balance.

Mullin discussed parks acquisition opportunity grant funds (for land acquisition) but noted this is not a fund to develop parks.

Bruner stated he feels the region is imbalanced. He feels a lot of funding goes to more established parks. He noted areas like Hennepin County have light rail that improves the visitor numbers. He also feels more funding needs to go to outlying areas such as Coney Island in Carver County.

Commers responded that one thing that brings us all together is that each of us wants transportation investment in our areas. He discussed transportation funding and regional park funding have different funding sources.

Marckel discussed criteria being used to test regional balance and the 2040 Regional Park System Plan Map. He noted that the number of acres of park land per person was pretty equal across the region. He discussed the geographic coverage – something to look at and other areas to explore to measure fairness. He discussed looking at the highest quality of natural resource preservation and noted that the implementing agencies talked about an inventory of recreational opportunities across the region.

Geisler suggested measuring what percent is maintained and what is needing to grow or develop.

Bruner asked if there is anything the Metropolitan Council can do to ask counties to step up with funding.

Commers discussed the ‘theme’ that regional parks attract a ‘regional’ audience. He discussed the relationship with the implementing agencies and their role as well as the key role of the Met Council.

Marckel stated that sometimes there’s a push from local communities to push for playgrounds, etc. Regional Parks are to be more nature based.

Mocol discussed natural resources and the river not being used. Water quality is an issue and also sediment.

Smitten asked how nature-based areas are balanced with land use decisions. Mullin discussed the Regional Park system and how new facilities get sited. He discussed a number of pathways to protect areas and also a number of way to alter boundaries of regional parks.

Marckel discussed the comprehensive planning process and how natural resources are getting preserved. He added that natural resource ‘action’ is in restoration.

Smitten discussed water quality and recharge areas.

Drotning discussed changes in developing communities that are looking at parks, trails, and preservation.

Commers asked committee members to forward additional comments/questions to staff.

### **Equity at the Council** – C. Terrence Anderson, Office of Equal Opportunity, and Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Torres and Anderson gave a presentation on equity at the Council, as outlined in the materials provided.

Halbach asked how this committee is expected to contribute to this cause. Commers stated equity is being integrated into all work at the Council and after the presentation, this committee will have a discussion on how equity plays a role in our work.

Torres stated that she could share her notes for further review and comments.

Klein asked what the Met Council is doing to encourage people of color to take a more active role in government and leadership roles. Torres responded that the Met Council recruits persons of color.

Halbach discussed where this is being done in his area. He discussed the Star Tribune article stating that too little is being done and asked how this committee could help.

Anderson stated that the Council is doing a lot of work in equity that ‘doesn’t show up.’ The role of this committee is to say what can we be doing in our communities. This will take a while to evolve. He stated that equity work is a balance of vision and patience.

Bruner commented that change starts when people get involved.

Droste feels it would be helpful to have key questions on what to do to help promote equity. Torres discussed resources that may be helpful from PlanIt series of trainings that were done and stated staff can share that with this committee.

Geisler asked if the Council is helping to ensure that equity is encouraged in development. Anderson responded that with big projects there are disadvantaged business enterprises requirements and regional solicitation.

Commers added a number of elements that speak to this and stated he can have staff send an email to elaborate more.

Neuendorf asked if there is any alignment with Greater MSP, etc. Libby Starling stated alignment is happening around Center for Economic Inclusion – announced last week. She added that how all these elements are coming together is an emerging issue.

Mocol discussed Diversity Summit developed.

### **Mixed-Income Housing in the Region – Tara Beard, Regional Policy & Research**

Beard gave a presentation about mixed-income housing in the region, as outlined in the materials provided.

Klein asked if units are being sold or rented. Beard responded both but primarily rental.

Klein asked if there are restrictions to the amount of time units have to be affordable. Beard stated, yes, and gave examples.

Neuendorf discussed the ‘buy-in’ vs. ‘buy-out’ programs and projects targeted but need funding to come together.

Halbach discussed an income averaging tool and asked if this is being promoted. Beard stated staff are aware of it and are looking at how to do this in the private market.

Commers stated it seems like a great next step on how to expand affordable housing regionally.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

### **Next Meeting – July 19, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle  
Recording Secretary