

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

#### Committee Members Present:

Haigh, Duininck, Cunningham, Elkins, Van Eyll, Munt, Schreiber, Rodriguez, Reynoso, McCarthy, Rummel, Melander, Kramer, Commers, Chávez, Wulff

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 3:40p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Chávez to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2013 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

#### SWLRT PROJECT UPDATE

Sam O'Connell provided an overview of the SWLRT public engagement process. Comments, transcripts, and additional materials from the SWLRT public meetings can be found on the Public Involvement page of the website ([www.swlrt.org](http://www.swlrt.org)).

Della Schall Young from Burns & McDonnell presented the draft water resources evaluation. Burns & McDonnell were charged with conducting an independent engineering evaluation and technical review to address the following: potential impacts to groundwater elevation, the Chain of Lakes water budget, and groundwater flow between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles; reasonability of leakage rates for permanent sheet piling and waterproofing systems; reasonability of construction and operation methods to manage water in the project area; reasonability of the stormwater infiltration design to address the potential of discharging warmer water in the Winter; and any other potential impacts to water resources in the area. The recommendations included additional piezometers (lateral and nested), examination of seasonal water level data, removal of the term 'dewatering', a comprehensive sanitary sewer capacity analysis, inclusion of stormwater pre-treatment devices, and investigation of snow and ice best management practices.

Jim Terry from TranSystems provided the preliminary TC&W freight routing analysis. Terry's team included rail industry experts and track design professionals. He explained that the route must be viable and must not impair freight rail operation, impair commercial opportunities for the shippers or the railroad, and must not unduly delay the re-route or the LRT project. The route must be sound and meet industry standards for safety, it must not unduly impact the surrounding community, and the cost must be acceptable. Terry provided very thorough explanations of the alternatives that were studied. His presentation in its entirety can be found at [www.swlrt.org](http://www.swlrt.org).

Jim Alexander presented the draft landscaping/greenscaping analysis. The purpose of the study was to identify existing trees and vegetation and identify re-vegetation opportunities with LRT construction in the Kenilworth Corridor. The findings are as follows: over 75% of the study area consists of existing vegetation and of that total, 9% is native vegetation/restoration area, 26% is maintained vegetation (mowed grass), 6% is unmaintained vegetation (groundcover outside of the tree and vegetation area), and 59% is trees, understory and groundcover vegetation.

The remaining 25% of the study area is freight ballast, track, and trails. There are 480 significant trees (as defined by the City of Minneapolis code).

### **THRIVE MSP 2040**

Gary Van Eyll asked the group to look at the Review of Changes to ProtoThrive. Rummel addressed the changes within the Climate Change and Collaboration sections. There was brief discussion on whether climate change should be included. Schreiber briefed the group on the changes to the Highways topic area, which included more specific references to highways, roads, and bridges (rather than transportation) and the highway investment strategy was added. Commers reviewed the Transit and Land Use section, and the Regionally Significant Economic Places section. Chávez addressed the areas of Redevelopment and Racially-Concentrated Areas of Poverty, which focused on the benefits of reducing RCAPs. Van Eyll reviewed the Community Engagement and Healthy Communities areas. Overall the group was pleased with the changes in language and additions of new sentences.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:26p.m.

Emily Getty  
Recording Secretary