

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Not Recorded:2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 15 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Not Recorded:2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson

INFORMATION

1. Goals and Strategic Planning (Mary Bogie, 651-602-1359)

Mary Bogie, Acting Regional Administrator, provided an update on the Council's goals and strategic plan. The Council arrived at this version of the strategic planning document beginning with a brainstorming session during a Council Member retreat in the fall of 2019. Staff took those ideas, made recommendations and added objectives and strategies. Small groups of Council members then met, reviewed and made further recommendations. The full Council reviewed the goals at the February 2020 Committee of the Whole meetings. A draft strategic plan was then submitted to the Governor in February 2020. The Council identified four priorities: transportation, reducing racial disparities, housing and sustainability.

For transportation, the overarching goal is to expand and improve our regional transportation system, offering safe, reliable and accessible transportation options for everyone that support our region's economic competitiveness. For reducing racial disparities, the overarching goal is to make a measurable impact on reducing racial disparities experienced by people of color and indigenous people and who are historically underrepresented people through our work in the region. For housing, the overarching goal is to become a region with a broader housing spectrum where all people can thrive. For sustainability, the overarching goal is to build a resilient region that mitigates its adverse contribution to climate change, with a focus on degraded air and water quality, and meets the challenge of the climate crisis.

Bogie highlighted the adjustments to expectations due to the events of 2020: civil and political unrest worldwide, COVID-19 drastic impact on Transit ridership, and funding changes and fiscal uncertainty. Nick Thompson, Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave an overview of transportation highlights, including transit projects advancing, improving customer access and experience, the plan to adopt the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, and the completion of the Service Allocation Study. Thompson also shared new considerations due to COVID-related changes in ridership and revenue. Lisa Barajas, Director, Community Development, shared housing highlights, including the highest investment level in the Local Housing Incentives Account, the establishment of the Council Member Housing Work Group, and the evaluation of the Livable Communities Program. Barajas also shared new considerations due to increased homelessness in the region, federal vouchers made available to the HRA, and new funding opportunities. Barajas also gave an overview of the highlights in sustainability, including a recent opportunity to partner with Xcel Energy to purchase electric buses, as well as continued partner engagement, technical assistance and tools for local governments. New considerations include delays due to COVID as well as the establishment of the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate Change. Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, shared the highlights from the reducing racial disparities goal, including the racial equity strategy and framework, impact and MCUB sustainability. New considerations in this area are technology for internal and external facing systems to reduce racial barriers, resources for funding contributions, Council-wide Racial Equity Training, and exploring statewide disaggregated labor force availability.

Council Member Chamblis asked if staff other than Council members have had input on the plan. Bogie said that the plans were reviewed by certain staff but have not been socialized with all of the staff. Council members asked about graphs and terminology, such as using the term BIPOC. Council Member Johnson suggested changing "reduce" racial disparities to "eliminate" racial disparities. Council members then had a broad discussion about unsheltered homelessness in the region. Council Member Lee mentioned the idea of transit as a social service, in relation to unsheltered homelessness. Council members then had comments and discussion about funding sources and fare-free transit. Council Member Atlas-Ingebretson and other Council members also discussed Metro Transit Police youth engagement and restorative justice work with children.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary