

# Minutes

Committee of the Whole



**Meeting date:** February 21, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** 390 Robert Street

## Members present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Tyronne Carter, District 3
- Deb Barber, District 4
- John Pacheco Jr., District 5

- Robert Lilligren, District 6
- Yassin Osman, District 7
- Anjuli Cameron, District 8
- Diego Morales, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Gail Cederberg, District 11

- Susan Vento, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Toni Carter, District 14
- Tenzin Dolkar, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present, E = excused

## Call to order

A quorum being present, Council Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m.

## Agenda approved

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2024, regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

## Information

1. 2050 Parks Policy Planning Update (Lisa Barajas, Emmett Mullin, and Colin Kelly)

Barajas gave brief comments on the presentations being brought today and noted that future presentations will be on land use and water resources.

Mullin and Kelly shared an update on the development of *Imagine 2050* and the *2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, including a parks policy plan timeline and draft regional parks and trails objectives, as seen in the materials provided. Staff also shared engagement done with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the ten implementing agencies. Staff will seek Council Members' advice on draft objectives and emerging policies and actions.

Comments and clarifications were discussed including Chapter 9 and the high-quality natural resource areas in outer suburbs, already regional parks within the system, that are not receiving funding for better access and development, whereas the focus seems to be on industrial areas for additional to inner-city regional parks/trails. Staff discussed the Mississippi River shoreline that is becoming available and stated this is a great opportunity, however, appreciated the points made.

Clarification was also sought regarding streamlining equity analysis and what that looks like. Staff stated that they are looking for a more cohesive, simplified approach.

Comments on accessibility for all and positive comments on equitable accommodations and

expanded uses were made. The Equity Grant Program was also discussed and noted requests shared an emphasis on safety.

## 2. 2050 Housing Policy Plan Update (Hilary Lovelace)

Vice Chair Chamblis noted that Milissa Taphorn, Executive Director of the Washington County CDA was present and served on the Technical Advisory Group. She thanked her for her attendance.

Lovelace gave a presentation to provide information on the items of consensus from the Housing Policy Plan Technical Advisory Group that completed work and met for the last time earlier this month, a draft of Housing Policy Plan Objectives, and a review of the timeline. Following this meeting, Council staff will begin drafting the Housing Policy Plan, with a draft available for public comment prepared in early May alongside other policy areas.

Comments and questions were made by Committee members including clarification on mid-point densities. There was also a request for further discussion on the engagement that was done. Staff elaborated on this and discussed the different groups that were engaged, including more than 250 people as well as youth. A suggestion for a link on our website was suggested.

Further comments were made on what the Council can do as well as what needs to be done and making a point of this. Agreement was made that the Council cannot 'fix' this alone.

Questions were raised regarding what is next with partners and what is the plan to engage local governments. Staff discussed direct engagement with local governments planned and noted they are also working with Metro Cities.

## 3. 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Update (Cole Hiniker and Bethany Brandt-Sargent)

Hiniker gave an update on the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and discussed 2050 TPP working groups, development schedule, draft content development and early review. Then reviewed the early draft chapter technical review schedule.

Brandt-Sargent reviewed policy development process and the Policy Teams and Stakeholders included in that process. She discussed policy considerations, including regional funding priorities, comprehensive planning/project development, technical assistance, and work program. She also discussed policies that will guide all work.

Question regarding additional approaches for people with disabilities and clarification that there are current approaches to this as well.

Five goal documents and investment plans were discussed and noted these documents will be shared mid-March.

Comments giving appreciation and support of this work were made. Appreciation of new approaches and the fresh feel that seems people focused.

Dolkar made several specific recommendations under equity, dynamic and resilient, shared mobility, and climate objectives. Vice Chair Chamblis suggested providing these suggestions in writing to staff.

Comments made on places that do not have transit but do have mobility needs. Also, on balancing the investments and focusing on safety.

Hiniker encouraged Committee members to point out inconsistencies they may see within the document as it's reviewed.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:07 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 February 21, 2024.

Approved this 6th day of March 2024.

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