

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tchourumoff, Letofsky, Dorfman, Elkins, Barber, Schreiber, Rodriguez, Wulff, Commers, Kramer, McCarthy, Cunningham, Melander

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Tchourumoff called the special meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 5:11PM on Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Kramer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Changing Development Patterns in the Twin Cities

CM Commers made introductory comments. Libby Starling and Lisa Barajas presented on the development patterns in the Twin Cities. The goal for this meeting was to articulate a new and clear narrative about how and where development is occurring and determine what we will need to know in the next decade of planning. Key messages were: the “sprawl” narrative describes past development; land consumption has declined dramatically; demographics and economics favor more multifamily housing; market shift toward projects and locations with amenities; and local policy changes are supporting these forces. Comprehensive plan amendments (CPAs) are largely supporting increased density and mixed-use redevelopment.

The Council guides growth and influences development by setting land use and density policies, coordinating local comprehensive planning, providing wastewater service, investing in transportation, providing transit infrastructure and service, funding through Livable Communities grants, protecting land through regional parks, and supporting and promoting other state programs such as clean water fund programs and natural resources protection programs.

Starling and Barajas shared maps illustrating the median age of development in the region, the number of units per acre, and the Thrive Community Designations. Despite a growing population, the amount of land per person and per household has been decreasing since 2010. A changing market, changing expectations, and a changing political culture have been reflected in CPAs, which are creating more residential units. CPAs anticipate more growth in older suburbs.

The Council forecasts 1,509,000 households in 2040, a 35% increase from the 1,119,000 households counted by Census 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary