

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Barber, Cummings, Chamblis, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

Zeran

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Zeran

No response: 1 Sterner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2022 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Zeran

No response: 1 Sterner

INFORMATION

1. Metro Transit Police Work Group

Work Group Chair Chamblis gave an overview of recent work from the Metro Transit Police Work Group, including an update on development of recommendations, and discussion of draft vision and information needs for quarterly reports. There are two remaining work group meetings: February 18 and February 25, and the work group will report back recommendations to the Council by February 28. The work group's recommendations and approach will address vision, priorities, considerations, and ideas for data and information. The work group will recommend that Metro Transit and the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD)

develop an action plan to advance the recommended vision and priorities, and that Metro Transit/MTPD should bring the action plan to the full Council for approval in June 2022. The draft vision should: 1. provide a quality transit experience for all, using an anti-racist lens, equity lens, and inclusive approach to transit safety, security, and policing; 2. address systemic issues by fostering community relationships and partnerships; and 3. demonstrate responsive leadership and accountability for results.

Council members did not have any questions or comments.

2. Equity Advisory Committee Annual Report

Leah Goldstein Moses and Breanne Rothstein, Co-Chairs of the Equity Advisory Committee, shared the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) annual report. Goldstein Moses began with an overview of the background of the EAC. Community members advocated for the creation of an Equity Advisory Committee after seeing that the Met Council's practices were creating inequities. In 2014, Thrive 2040 was adopted. It noted that disparities threaten the future vitality of the region and centered equity as one of five outcomes, saying that equity would be used as a lens to evaluate its operations, planning and investments. The equity advisory committee was established in October 2015. The charge of the EAC is to give advice that advances equity. EAC members serve by appointment and the committee is composed of 21 voting members: four Council members, eight geographic members, and nine at-large members. In 2021 the EAC worked in the focus areas of affordable housing, public transportation, Council operations, and One Metro partnerships. In 2022 the EAC will be onboarding new members, focusing in the same priority areas as 2021, and adding a lens of how these priorities and the Met Council's work intersect with other areas affecting communities inequitably: physical and mental health; access to employment, health care, recreation, civic participation/voting, and other essentials; policing, surveillance and safety; and education and youth programs. They also shared many Council barriers to EAC work, including a lack of engagement from Council members and staff. To value and benefit from the EAC, they recommend that the Council: expand the EAC's influence, implement the recommendations that have already emerged from the EAC, and provide the resources needed for the EAC to function well.

Chair Zelle thanked the presenters for their presentation and their candor. Council Members had questions and comments about time constraints and limitations for both committee members and staff, the intersection of the BIPOC work group and the EAC, and the value-add of four Council members and their attendance. Council members also asked for clarity on next steps and the requests from the EAC. Mary Bogie, Regional Administrator, suggested that the Management Committee address the recommendations and requests from the EAC. Council Members also highlighted the issue of one-way engagement between the EAC and staff and would appreciate more information about how recommendations from EAC reports are being addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary