

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Karl Drotning, Phillip Klein, Gerald Bruner, Kathi Hemken, Courtney Schroeder, Noah Keller, Jonathan Bottema, Steve Morris, Dan Roe, Vince Workman,

Committee Members Absent:

Chair Wendy Wulff, Jennifer Geisler, Kathi Mocol, Mark Nelson, Mitra Jatali Nelson, Vince Workman, Suado Abdi, Trish MatasCastillo

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Klein called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2019.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Klein noted that there was not a quorum present at the beginning of the meeting so a motion to approve the July 18, 2019 agenda was waived.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice Chair Klein noted that there was not a quorum present at the beginning of the meeting so a motion to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes was postponed until a quorum became present.

INTODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Klein noted that new member April Graves was in attendance and asked her to introduce herself. Members of the commission in turn introduced themselves as well. Detrick noted that this was Noah Keller's first meeting as well.

INFORMATION

Thrive MSP 2040 Introduction to Land Use Policy – Lisa Barajas, Community Development Division and Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Barajas and Torres gave an introduction to the land use policy as outlined in the presentation provided.

Bottema asked about 'must have vs. what you'd like to see'. He feels it is difficult to differentiate and would like clarity. Barajas stated must haves come out of the Land Planning Act and gave some examples. Barajas said the Council has developed policies on how to carry this out. She noted that what we'd 'like to see' is not a Council system and not specifically discussed in the Land Planning Act. She then discussed conformance to our regional systems plans. Torres added that there are other state statutes that we help to implement with other partners, i.e., the DNR.

Schroeder asked when does accountability come about. Barajas stated much of this is done at the local level. She noted that the Council does track building permits, looking at connections to the wastewater system and also trends in traffic, development patterns, etc. She added that anytime grants are applied for, comprehensive plans are looked at.

Vice Chair Klein discussed the impacts to sewer systems because of development.

Bruner commented on the phrase 'make best use of public and private investment' and stated that it seems subjective. Barajas discussed the Council's direction in relation to efficiencies.

Vice Chair Klein discussed private side, i.e., if you have a developer that wants to develop affordable housing. He also discussed government supporting water conservation projects, i.e., on a golf course.

Drotning stated it is important not to get stuck on semantics. The comprehensive plan is a tool for communities to use when developing or redeveloping.

Bruner stated he wasn't referring to affordable housing but to solar projects. He feels they're being forced to have them and feels they are talking prime farmland. Barajas noted that this is a new issue that is coming up as it's gained popularity.

Bottema noted that he's read many solar applications and the Council encourages solar farms. He discussed some of the myths about solar, i.e., that they're recyclable, but his research has found that they are not. Nor can they go in the landfills because they are hazardous waste. He feels this needs to be looked at closely. Vice Chair Klein encouraged Bottema to continue this conversation with staff outside of this meeting.

Barajas discussed natural resource protection.

Drotning stated we are so fortunate today because it is a part of a plan and from an environmental standpoint, we are doing a much better job of protecting resources – both aggregate and natural resources.

Torres discussed water sustainability.

Morris discussed water quality and felt that the Council is not supporting this issue. Torres responded that we talk about quantity, but we work with partners like the DNR and the MPCA regarding quality.

Lanya Ross noted that she will talk more about this in her presentation.

Torres discussed housing affordability and choices. Next, she discussed access, mobility, and transportation choices.

Barajas discussed the Transportation Policy Plan and investments in regional transit.

Torres discussed economic competitiveness.

Bottema discussed resources like market analysis tools and asked how we connect them. Torres stated that's what staff are here for. She encouraged members to contact their sector representative and noted the Local Planning Handbook can be found on the Council's website where all of these resources are linked. She noted she could send a link to members.

Roe discussed Greater MSP partnership. Barajas stated they share data, etc. Torres added the Council connects with many partners in various forms.

Keller asked if the Council is involved in tax incentives for development. Barajas stated this was an effort led by the Governor's office and stated a lot of this work is done with DEED. She noted however that the Council does not offer tax incentives but does offer revitalization grants like brownfield grants.

Drotning discussed movement of freight. Barajas stated these items are pretty high level but discussed economic competitiveness and the preservation of sites for highway-, river-, and rail-dependent manufacturing and freight transportation.

Torres discussed building resilience.

Bottema stated that acute environmental issues, i.e., hazardous pollutions, are something he would like to see identified.

Bruner discussed transportation issues and asked if the Council underestimates the need for more roads and not light rail, which seems to be the focus. Barajas explained the different finance sources and noted that one funds rail and one funds roads. She added that the Council asks for as much as we can get for both.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice Chair Klein noted that there was now a quorum present and asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes. It was motioned by Bruner and seconded by Drotning. **The motion was approved.**

INFORMATION (Continued)

Collaboration of Land Use Advisory Committee and Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) – Lanya Ross, Water Supply Planning

Ross gave a presentation on the water efficiency rebate program that awards grants. Vice Chair Klein discussed use in Hugo and noted that this is a great program.

Ross discussed a proposal to have a joint workshop with MAWSAC and LUAC this fall similar to one that was done in 2017. The group responded in favor. Vice Chair Klein suggested an email asking would like to participate. Detrick agreed and stated staff could send out suggested dates/times.

Drotning stated he attended the first one and noted that he felt it was worthwhile.

Bottema stated he would like to learn more about it but is cautious about policy development.

Vice Chair Klein stated these are things that could be brought up during the workshop.

Ross stated water supply is not a regional system, but we are interested in providing technical assistance and resources.

Ross asked what other topics would be of interest. Vice Chair Klein stated water quality. Drotning suggested well activities.

Bottema discussed water supply from adjacent communities and how they are unable to get water for commercial use. Barajas clarified that water supply is not a regional system. She noted that Corcoran is seeing restrictions not seen elsewhere.

Bruner suggested the topic of rainwater retention.

Morris discussed drinking water protection guidance.

Drotning discussed management of rainwater in developing sites within the site itself.

Ross will send out an email with potential dates/times.

Graves asked to talk about conservation of use. Ross discussed work with industries and businesses to look for water conservancies. She also discussed outdoor water conservation in communities and developing a tool to help with this.

Graves discussed making water more of a movement – not just a policy.

Morris discussed Green Step Cities and asked if there's a best practices toolbox. Ross responded not yet, but they are working with Green Step Cities to develop something in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, it was motioned by Bottema and seconded by Drotning to adjourn. **The motion carried** for the meeting to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary