

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Jon Commers, Phillip Klein, Marvin Johnson, Chip Halbach, Bill Neuendorf, Karl Drotning, Michael Webb, and Bill Droste

Committee Members Absent:

Pamela Harris, James McClean, Kathi Hemken, Kathi Mocol, James Saefke, Kristina Smitten, Jennifer Geisler, Elizabeth Wefel, and Jamil Ford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2016.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Commers noted that there was not a quorum present to approve the Agenda or the May 19, 2016 minutes. The Committee proceeded with the Agenda as presented.

INFORMATION

PlanIt – Comprehensive Plan Training Program – Angela Torres, Local Planning Assistance

Torres gave a presentation updating the Committee on the PlanIt Program. The 2016 schedule of events has been published. She noted there will be webinars, expert articles, online tutorials, and a winter conference.

Torres reviewed the PlanIt page within the Local Planning Handbook on the Council's website and demonstrated the tutorial.

Droste asked what the focus of the conference will be. Torres stated it will be centered on comprehensive planning.

Halbach asked about best practices on affordable housing and how many examples there are so far. Torres stated there is currently just one. She noted that they are initially trying to get one example to cover each topic and then will add additional examples. She encouraged members to nominate communities on any/all topics.

Torres shared that the Met Council Newsletter is highlighting one example in each newsletter.

Drotning asked how to get planners to participate. Torres stated that staff are trying to provide many formats to help educate communities. Drotning discussed getting past the Planning Directors and out to the Planning Commission members and folks doing the update.

Torres discussed help from Metro Cities as well. She also noted that there will be an opportunity for non-planning professional workshops.

Industry Cluster Profiles – Ryan Garcia, Local Planning Assistance

Garcia gave a presentation on industry clusters that drive our regional economy. He discussed Thrive MSP 2040/Prosperity and Community Development Division's objectives. He discussed a new resource – cluster profiles.

Johnson stated it looks like work that's been done with the Regional Conference of Mayors, ULI, etc. and he doesn't see their name or contact information here. Garcia stated this is information that has been developed internally.

Johnson stated that a wide scope of where to find this information would be helpful. Garcia noted that Local Planning Handbook (LPH) is more intentional at pointing in the direction of resources.

Commers responded to Johnson's comments and stated he felt the information found at the local level may be useful to other communities.

Garcia stated this is a tool intended to paint a picture of where we are today to help shape conversations around economic development.

Neuendorf felt these are helpful. He suggested links to where we can find more information. Garcia stated the LPH will provide more data and links to more resources.

Commers commented on an event he attended put on by Minnesota Commercial Real Estate Women (MNREW) and noted that Kristina Smitten was on the panel where the subject of discussion was: are we converting too much contiguous industrial zoned land to other uses in a way that makes it problematic over time as the needs change. He feels this is timely for the comprehensive planning process as well as the market place.

Droste asked if there is data specifically on sites. Garcia stated that we don't have that. He discussed drivers (workforces) that draw in businesses, i.e., incentives, talent, etc.

Klein asked if we are working with local communities and the University system to try to make a match. Garcia stated this was a great question, however, it was not a part of this.

Transit Oriented Development Guide – Deb Detrick, Local Planning Assistance

Detrick gave a progress report on the TOD Guide and noted the target audience is city planners, planning commissioners. There has been a 'soft launch' but it needs additional work, including more text, pictures, etc. She noted a link will be sent to members when the site is more complete. She then demonstrated how to navigate the site.

Droste asked if this is only for specified transit corridors. Detrick said, no, it can also be used if there are emerging markets for transit services or as cities without transit are looking to improve walkability, bikeways, etc. She noted, like the LPH, there are a lot of links to resources out there.

Detrick stated that we welcome feedback and noted 'contact us' within the guide. She noted that we want to hear from people.

Halbach asked if housing affordability is featured in the guide. Detrick stated that it is and demonstrated where it can be found on the site.

Commers asked if LPH will have links to the TOD Guide. Detrick stated there are resources that exist within the LPH so the TOD Guide links to the LPH. Commers asked if there could be a link in the LPH to the TOD Guide. Detrick stated that there certainly could be.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Hannah Field, Virginia Flurry and Gordon Moore, Interns, and Eric Wojchik, Local Planning Assistance

The interns gave a presentation on a tool called Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). It assesses potential regional vulnerability to climate impacts specifically related to extreme flooding and heat given the increase in severity in most recent years. It's a two-pronged approach to assess the region's resources and assets and to develop adaptation strategies. They discussed the project objectives and reviewed base maps created.

Field discussed the work of the Focus Group held on July 11, 2016.

Flurry discussed additional phases moving forward and noted that the finalized report and LPH tools are expected to be complete in early 2017.

Droste asked if overflows and catch basins are identified on BlueSpot Flood Maps. Moore responded, no, that the cities would have to look at this.

Wojchik noted that every city keeps stormwater data in a different format. He stated the Council would like to promote a metro-wide data set for stormwater.

Commers asked if this relates to the transit network and asked if conditions around regional systems were clearer. Wojchik would not say that because the stormwater component is not under the Council's jurisdiction.

Commers agreed that, although water is not in the Council's jurisdiction, if the conditions pictured in the presentation are in place then that is quite a direct impact on a regional system that the Council is responsible for. Wojchik stated this raises a good point and discussed the need to partner with cities and collaborate to plan for these types of events properly.

Commers discussed a study of the Louisville metro and a heat island there where they found ways to substantially reduce temperatures.

Neuendorf asked how the BlueSpot Map correlates to an Atlas 2014 Watershed District Map. The interns were not familiar with that map.

Klein asked did they expand into the rural area. Moore stated this was done for the entire metro area.

Webb discussed the feasibility study for a new levee they're working on with the Corps of Engineers. He agreed that there's a need for regional planning.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Next Meeting – September 15, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary