

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Committee Members Present: Smith, Van Eyll, Schreiber, Cunningham, Rummel, Kramer, Melander, Chávez, Duinick, Haigh, Reynoso, Elkins, Wulff

Committee Members Absent: Doãn, Munt, Commers, Brimeyer

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:17PM on Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Wulff to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

BUSINESS

1. National Association of Regional Councils Study of Best Practices in Regional Economic Competitiveness—Autumn Campbell

Autumn Campbell, Director of Community Programs at NARC, gave a presentation on the regional economic performance analysis for the Twin Cities. Key observations from the survey showed that the Met Council has the largest operating budget by far and has a unique governance structure. Common regional threads showed that there is not one model for success or regional leadership; data-driven economic strategies guide policies and prioritize investment decisions; increased mobility of jobs, works, and capital are elevating quality of life and workforce development investments; coordination among local partners is a key challenge.

The recommendations to increase regional capacity on economic performance are: establish ownership, clarify roles, and prioritize actions around a single economic strategy; define and monitor performance of regional goals for equitable economic growth—use to drive policy and investment decisions; prioritize the needs of the region over individual jurisdiction to successfully compete in a global market place; focus economic and workforce development around core industry clusters; prioritize public investments in infrastructure, education and quality-of-life.

2. Metropolitan Council Economic Competitiveness Work—Janna King

Economic competitiveness is how the region relates to and competes to other regions in the global economy. Economic development is local actions to support the retention, expansion, attraction or creation of businesses that create jobs and tax base, primarily in sectors that export a product or service from the region. Janna explained that economic competitiveness is really an eco-system, made up of economic development, community development, and workforce development. It is a dynamic process that requires consistent, long-term collaborative stewardship. Janna used the example of Williston, ND where the oil boom is creating huge economic development, while the community development piece is struggling to catch up.

A shared vision to integrate partner strategies is what is lacking in the framework. The Metropolitan Council's portfolio historically and in statute reflects its focus on infrastructure and amenities that support and attract companies and workers, specifically with transit, housing, and wastewater.

The Met Council's role in economic competitiveness includes long-range planning and investment that ensures efficient movement of people and freight globally, nationally, and regionally; provides for the efficient treatment of wastewater; contributes to a quality of life and cost structure that can attract and

retain a talented workforce; works with local jurisdictions to provide access and infrastructure to employment locations; provides a consistent framework for land use planning throughout the region; supports equitable sharing of the opportunities and challenges of growth across the region's geographic and cultural communities.

Janna stated that one of the key findings is that the transit infrastructure provides critical internal connection between residents and employment locations, but a similar focus is needed for external freight and transportation connections to the global economy. Janna also stated that in her work she has found other regions to be more strategic about freight movement and related land use; DOT has placed an emphasis on efficient movement of freight because it is important to our national economic competitiveness.

3. Employment Centers in the Twin Cities—Cole Hiniker

Cole gave a brief history of the job and activity centers in the region. Previous iterations of the regional development guides/blueprint (current version-in-progress is Thrive MSP 2040) referenced the job and activity centers in the region. The Land Use and Planning Resources Report (LUPR) was created last year and documents the relationship between land use and infrastructure investments in the region.

In 2010, there were about 1.5 million jobs in the region. This number is expected to grow by 458,000 between 2010 and 2040. Jobs tend to cluster more so than housing, and it is important for us to know where the jobs will be located within the region in order to efficiently use existing infrastructure and plan for the future. Cole shared a map showing the job density in the region, which was mostly concentrated in the core cities. The types of job and activity clusters are metropolitan centers (Minneapolis and ST. Paul downtowns, U of M, MSP airport), professional job centers (50%+ of jobs in commercial business/finance, major medical, education), industrial job centers (50%+ of jobs in manufacturing, distribution, and transportation), activity centers (50%+ of jobs in retail, hospitality, and entertainment) and diversified centers (mixed distribution of job classes). There are 44 major job and activity centers in the region, with a minimum threshold of 7,000 jobs with 10 jobs/acre.

4. Saint Paul Port Authority Work on Central City Industrial Development—Louis Jambois

The Saint Paul Port Authority has made great strides in redeveloping areas in the Twin Cities for industrial use. Louis' presentation included photos from a variety of areas that have been transformed by the Port Authority. The Port Authority has developed 21 inner-city business centers, now containing 12.5 million square feet of building space. They are a leader in sustainable design and development, and provide expansion financing. A third of St. Paul's land is tax exempt.

Industry today includes traditional manufacturing, appliance sales and distribution, logistics, and online distribution services.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:44PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary