

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Haigh, Duininck, Commers, Elkins, Schreiber, Melander, Van Eyll, Chávez, Kramer, Rummel, Rodriguez, Wulff, Reynoso, McCarthy, Munt

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:05p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2014 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

THRIVE MSP 2040

1. Review of Changes to the February 5 draft of *Thrive MSP 2040*—Gary Van Eyll

The two changes to the February 5 draft of Thrive MSP 2040 are found on pages 17, 26, and 27. Page 17 addresses the outcome of Prosperity and pages 26-27 address the outcome of Livability. The group supports the changes.

2. Discuss Additions (Special Features, Community Designations, and Land Use Policy) to the February 5 draft of Thrive MSP 2040—Dan Marckel, Libby Starling, and Lisa Barajas

New language was added to the Special Features, Community Designations, and Land Use Policies sections. The Environmental Services unit requested the removal of language addressing water supply given the ongoing discussion in the region. The Special Features piece now includes Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs) and Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs), station areas on transitways, water supply considerations, job and activity centers, wastewater service areas, and regionally significant natural resources. The Community Designations are: urban center, urban, suburban, suburban edge, emerging suburban edge, rural centers, diversified rural, rural residential, and agricultural. The group discussed the urban forestry grant programs mentioned in the document, which was a recommendation from the MN Climate Change Action Advisory Group. This would be an opt-in program for communities and is early in the planning stages. The Land Use Policies section includes six policies and defines the roles of the Council and communities. The six policies address the following: orderly and efficient land use; natural resources protection; housing affordability and choice; access, mobility, and transportation choice; economic competitiveness; and building in resilience. Libby explained that the first part of the document speaks to policymakers, and the second piece speaks more to local staff. The forecasts will be incorporated to reinforce that this is a complete document and it will be open for public comment in its entirety.

Councilmembers asked about having talking points for *Thrive MSP 2040* and wanting to know exactly what is going to be required of communities. Within the Land Use Policy there are references to some very specific statutory requirements (e.g.: solar access); ultimately the three statutory systems plans are the documents

that lay out the specific requirements of communities. Lisa clarified that nothing has changed as far as what is required by communities; the statutes have not changed.

3. Release of Draft Local Forecasts for Public Comment—Libby Starling, Todd Graham, and Dennis Farmer

Libby explained the distinction between the regional forecasts that were discussed at last week's Council meeting, the local forecasts, and the interaction with transportation services. Overall, there are three separate models: the regional economic model for region-level economic activity and employment; the land use model for allocating future land use, households and employment to the local level; and the travel demand model for predicting modes, network paths and network conditions. A market-based model is used for this work; it looks at what households value and where developers want to build. A lot of local data informs the model, including land supply, employment levels, socioeconomic characteristics, housing stock, building costs, average rents, land consumption rates, regional infrastructure, planned land use as a constraint, and accessibility by car and by transit. The models attempt to simulate the market supply and demand.

The preliminary local forecasts were released in September 2013. The reactions to the preliminary local forecasts were mixed. Some suburban edge and emerging suburban edge communities felt forecasts were too low, while many other developed communities and rural townships said the forecasts were too high.

The draft 2040 local forecasts include improvements to the Council's model and methodology, informed by discussions with local governments over the past several months. The overall results show a much more balanced growth between the central cities, developed suburbs, and developing suburbs. The revisions include corrected data on residential land consumption rates, revised development cost estimates to better reflect land costs and higher costs of redevelopment, improved tracking of developed and available land supplies, stricter definition of cities' maximum capacities, considered recent platting activity to identify current growth areas, and the forecasts are slightly lower overall.

Public comments will be taken through April 28. Revised forecasts will be adopted with *Thrive MSP 2040* at the end of May 2014.

4. Update on *Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities Region* (formerly known as the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment)—Beth Reetz and Libby Starling

This report is the culmination of 18 months of work by Council Research staff and meets the requirement of HUD's \$5 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. It is divided into ten sections: Regional Disparities, Poverty Trends, Racial Trends, Place-based Dynamics of Racial Disparities, Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs), Opportunity in the Region, Public Policies and Investments, Council Policy, Responses from Regional Partners, and Conclusion. Beth explained that it is an assessment, on a regional scale, of the disparities in the Twin Cities. The process has included engagement of regional partners and community residents from the beginning, over 18 months ago. The first partial draft was published in June 2013. Since then, another round of outreach to low income community residents was done, so their feedback and suggestions has been incorporated. A revised draft was published in January 2014 and another will be posted on the website tomorrow, February 20. Comments will be collected until February 28. Another discussion will take place at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 19 and the final version of the report will be sent to HUD on March 31.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50p.m.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary