

# Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

**Committee Members Present:** Rodriguez, Schreiber, Munt, Van Eyll, Elkins, Brimeyer, Cunningham, Duinick, Reynoso, Doãn, Rummel, Kramer, Commers, Chávez, Wulff, Haigh

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the special meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 3:19PM on Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Doãn to approve the minutes from the August 7 Committee of the Whole special meeting. **Motion carried.**

## THRIVE MSP 2040

Introductory framing of today's discussion on Geographic Planning Areas—Libby Starling  
Libby explained that the objectives for this portion of the meeting are to confirm that the Council will develop new definitions of geographic planning areas for Thrive MSP 2040; discuss the Land Use Advisory Committee's recommendation and affirm general concepts for planning areas that will be adapted to implement policies under development; and provide guidance to staff's upcoming work to refine geographic planning areas as policy discussions continue. The geographic planning areas implement the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and are used to effectively plan and implement the Council's policies and strategies at a local level.

Recommendations for Geographic Planning Areas from the Land Use Advisory Committee—Jon Commers  
Council member Commers serves as the Chair of the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC). LUAC is authorized by statute to advise and assist the Council on metropolitan land use, comprehensive planning, system statement hearings, and matters of metropolitan significance as requested by the Council. Half of LUAC's members are local elected officials. On July 25, 2013 LUAC approved a recommendation to the COW on a preferred concept for changing planning areas. The purpose for changing planning areas is to reflect changes in conditions and priorities since the Regional Development Framework was written, redefine "developed" and "developing" areas for more effective policy implementation, and recognize commonalities that tie communities together. Council members expressed the desire to see the words "redevelop" and "redeveloping" included, as many cities/areas in the region are already developed and now undergoing redevelopment.

Commerz shared a detailed map of the geographic planning areas that was updated in 2011, as well as a map that illustrates the concepts the LUAC recommends be included in forming geographic planning areas for Thrive MSP 2040. Council members requested the ability to view the maps various layers (or characteristics) independently.

The LUAC recommendation includes keeping characteristics of current planning areas while adding intersection density and age of housing. They also recommend including features such as existing job and activity centers, transportation corridors, potential for redevelopment, reuse, and infill, and groundwater recharge potential, which transcend city and district boundaries.

The group discussed whether to include RCAPs in the geographic planning areas. Since it is a social construct and not a land form it is more subject to change, however, the Council agreed to incorporate the RCAPs in some form.

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience in Thrive MSP 2040—Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group

Council member Commers suggested a change to the text for greenhouse gas emissions. It currently states that Thrive MSP 2040 will reference the state's goals for greenhouse gas reduction that were adopted in 2007. The Council will explore how to monitor regional greenhouse gas emissions to identify opportunities to encourage greenhouse gas reductions. He suggested it be changed to read as follows: Thrive MSP 2040 will commit to compliance, both as an agency and on behalf of the region, with the state's Next Generation Energy Act goals for greenhouse gas reduction adopted in 2007. The Council will monitor and publish data for regional gas emissions, to realize opportunities for greenhouse gas reductions. The Council supported this change. The group discussed the need to stay in compliance with federal air quality standards. The Council also discussed including language regarding public safety, and decided that in this context it would be better referred to as "general health and welfare."

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Regional Parks and Trails in Thrive MSP 2040—Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group

The group was in agreement regarding their proposed policy direction for the Regional Parks and Trails section of Thrive MSP 2040. One suggestion was to include the word "healthy" in the Thrive goal-level language.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:39PM.

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary