

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Committee Members Absent:

None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 15 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Not Recorded:2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Johnson to amend the minutes of the September 2, 2020 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The phrase "removing a subset of the data" will be changed to "unfiltering the data, so that it is not filtered by Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs)."

Motion carried on the following roll call:

Aye: 15 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Not Recorded:2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson

It was moved by Chair Zelle to approve the amended minutes of the September 2, 2020 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 15 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zeran, Chair Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Not Recorded:2 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson

INFORMATION

1. Metro Transit Xcel Partnership Update (Carrie Desmond)

Carrie Desmond, Principle Engineer in the Engineering and Facilities Department, Metro Transit, gave an update on the Metro Transit Xcel Energy partnership. One of the goals of Metro Transit is 60% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2040. Metro Transit is partnering with Xcel Energy to deliver an electric vehicle pilot and C Line partnership fueled by electricity. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) docket 20-492 COVID-19 Relief and Recover proposed that the MN PUC explore opportunities for relief and recovery, including \$100 million for bus electrification. Metro Transit is also exploring partnership opportunities with Xcel Energy to reinvest in the community. The goals and objectives of the project are to provide COVID-19 economic relief and recovery, to reduce Metro Transit's environmental impact, technical viability, and fiscal responsibility and sustainability. Transportation investments are proven to provide jobs, and the project would be delivered in accordance with the Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) program.

Council Members praised Metro Transit staff for this program, and the impact that it will have on both jobs and the environment. Council Member Fredson also asked about the impact of electric busses on air quality, and if specific routes will be chosen based on the air quality of the area. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra replied that electric busses are currently being used on the C Line and will also be implemented on local routes in more populated areas. Council Members also had questions and comments about the timing of the program, as well as funding of the program.

2. Metro Transit Police Review Update (Michelle Fure)

Michelle Fure, Communications Manager, gave an update on the Metro Transit Police review project being led by Citizens League. The formal partnership with Citizens League is now in place and work will begin this week. The engagement portion of the review will extend through May of 2021, with check-ins with the Council throughout. The key objectives of the engagement are to understand people's experiences with the Metro Transit Police Department, and to define what safety and engagement mean to each unique stakeholder. The work will be structured so that the project team will have regular meetings and coordinate with Council engagement work. They will take stakeholder advice and high-level direction from Council members, staff, community leaders and members, MTPD, and others. They will also receive community advice on prioritizing transit users, Black and Indigenous people of color, and youth. Part of the engagement process will also include compensation for those who participate with the engagement process.

Council members had comments about including both youth and those experiencing homelessness. Council members also asked that the review ask police staff about what issues they see with the department.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary