

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Committee Members Present: Haigh, Elkins, Brimeyer, Rummel, Schreiber, Van Eyll, Munt, Reynoso, Kramer, Commers, Chávez, Rodriguez, Duininck

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:06PM on Wednesday, October 30, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Kramer to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2013 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

THRIVE MSP 2040

Proposed Thrive MSP 2040 Outcomes, Principles and Policy Direction—Libby Starling and Dan Marckel

Thrive will set the foundation for the policy direction in the systems and policy plans, which will in turn influence the local comprehensive plans. The five outcomes we are structuring Thrive around are stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. Thrive also defines three principles (integration, collaboration, and accountability) to guide how the Council implements its policies, both internally and externally, to advance the five outcomes. Work has started on most of the systems and policy plans. The Housing Policy Plan and the Water Resources Policy Plan are expected to be completed next summer. The Transportation Policy Plan will be completed sometime in late 2014, and the Regional Parks Policy Plan will be finished in early 2015.

A question was raised regarding what kind of feedback has been received regarding the term “affordable housing.” Libby stated that there has been clear recognition that more affordable housing is needed. The group briefly discussed the issue of limited resources and how to fix this problem.

The group discussed the forecasts and whether they should come before the policies. Feedback from local units of government has suggested the system is backwards and policies should come before the forecasts. Local units of government have stated that they want to help us achieve our desired outcomes, but they would like the forecast numbers to be less strict. The Council’s forecasts are used by local units of government as well as MnDOT so that everyone is using the same numbers and working toward the same overall expectations. Another question from local government was whether the forecasts were economic driven or policy driven, and that if they are policy driven the Council should be more transparent about that. Libby stated that some of the preliminary numbers are being rebalanced and a revised set of forecasts will be released.

A suggestion was made to insert an adjective into the following sentence under Stewardship: Strategically invest in new infrastructure capacity that supports (inserted adjective, such as “efficient” or “sustainable”) land use patterns. Another suggestion was to replace the word “communicate” with “complete” in the following statement under Livability: Communicate the regional bicycle network to promote bicycling for transportation and recreation.

Discussion of Proposed Geographic Planning Areas for Thrive MSP 2040—Libby Starling and Dan Marckel

The geographic planning areas integrate the Council's overall policy direction, communicate the Council's policies and priorities to local jurisdictions, and provide the foundation for local comprehensive planning under the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. The community-wide designations reflect high-level, strategic priorities for growth. The terms “developed” and “developing” have been abolished, with the recognition that in all areas of the region there is some kind of development and redevelopment happening. The community-wide designations fit into the urbanized area or the rural area. Designations within the urbanized area are: urban

center, urban, suburban, suburban edge, and emerging suburban edge. The rural area is made up of rural centers, diversified rural, rural residential, and agricultural. A map of the region illustrating these designations was displayed, along with the overlapping policy layers to show the geographic dimension of the policies. Each city receives its own specific System Statement to inform the comprehensive plan.

The group discussed the changes to the community-wide designations and how cities might respond to the shift in the naming convention. It would be important for everyone in the organization to use this new language. There was a suggestion to put the naming convention through a marketing lens. Some Council members stated that within their districts there are cities that could fit into two different designations based on the variances within the cities. The members requested a map that displays the raw land values.

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

This is a brand new piece that was not part of the previous Regional Development Framework. There was a suggestion to add language about the Council's role as an employer. Another suggestion was to include Concentrated Areas of Poverty in addition to Racially-Concentrated Areas of Poverty.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary