

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Haigh, Van Eyll, Cunningham, Melander, Elkins, Schreiber, Brimeyer, Munt, Kramer, Wulff, Chávez, Commers, Reynoso, Rodriguez

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00PM on Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Van Eyll, seconded by Chávez to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2014 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

#### **BUSINESS**

Further Discussion on Opportunities for the Council in Fair Housing

Libby Starling began the presentation by explaining that fair housing and affordable housing are related but different. Factors that inhibit fair housing include mortgage lending discrimination, real estate steering, barriers to qualification, and barriers in rental housing (such as discrimination by landlords). Qualities of affordable housing often include assistance provided to households (such as vouchers and down payment assistance), and income restricted/subsidized opportunities. The Council administers Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and provides rental assistance through the Metro HRA office. The Council reviews local comprehensive plans to ensure an adequate supply of land for low- and moderate-income housing. This review authority is governed by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act. The Council also funds development through the Livable Communities program and integrates housing into all policy plans.

Dave Theisen presented on the Council's legal authority related to affordable and fair housing. Dave provided a handout with excerpts from State Statutes relating to housing, including: "The council may require a local governmental unit to modify any comprehensive plan or part thereof if, upon the adoption of findings and a resolution, the council concludes that the plan is more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans." Cities have a responsibility to zone for affordable housing, but the Council cannot police it.

Libby provided a matrix to guide the discussion. Several of the options and opportunities listed on the matrix are new to the Council, and Chair Haigh stated she would like to continue the discussion, focusing on the new pieces, at the Sept. 3 COW meeting. Some of these new options and opportunities are for the Council to formally adopt a Fair Housing Policy to govern the Metro HRA activities; to encourage local comp plans to align with local Consolidated Plans and the regional Analysis of Impediments; and to require cities/counties that receive funding through the Council adopt Fair Housing Policies.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:20PM.

Emily Getty  
Recording Secretary