

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Haigh, Duininck, Elkins, Reynoso, McCarthy, Melander, Chávez, Munt, Commers, Rodriguez, Brimeyer, Wulff, Rummel, Kramer, Cunningham, Schreiber

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:05PM on Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Cunningham, seconded by Chávez to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2014 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Continued Further Discussion on Opportunities for the Council in Fair Housing

Chair Haigh began by explaining that there are many complex issues within this topic and discussion will likely need to continue at future meetings. Libby Starling provided an overview of what the Council would be discussing, which included reviewing the August 20 Committee of the Whole discussion, reviewing the Council's roles in housing, discussing opportunities for the Council to expand its fair housing beyond the Housing Policy Plan draft and, time permitting, reviewing roles with local government envisioned in Housing Policy Plan draft. The purpose of this meeting was to gain clarity about the Council's direction on fair housing to inform staff revisions of the Housing Policy Plan draft and to improve Council members' understanding of the direction of the Housing Policy Plan relative to the Council and local government.

Starling reiterated the difference between fair housing and affordable housing: fair housing is freedom from discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, and status with regard to public assistance. Affordable housing is defined as housing opportunities that allow households to pay a reasonable share of income on housing costs, and is generally focused on low- and moderate-income households. Barriers to fair housing include mortgage lending discrimination, real estate steering, barriers to qualification, barriers in rental housing (landlord discrimination), and where affordable opportunities are located.

The Council has five main roles when it comes to housing. They are Metro HRA, which administers Section 8 housing choice vouchers and provides rental assistance, the review of local comprehensive plans (ensuring an adequate supply of land for low- and moderate-income housing, and review of the housing element and implementation plan), funding housing development through Livable Communities Act grant program, integrating housing into the Council's plans/investments in transportation, water resources, and regional parks, and acting as a partner, funder, and convener in regional collaborations and conversations.

A statement of how the HRA affirmatively furthers fair housing is in the Public Housing Plan. Developing and funding a mobility counseling program (proposed for the 2015 budget) has been proposed in the draft Housing Policy Plan. An

additional step would be for the Council to adopt a Fair Housing Policy. The Council already reviews comprehensive plans, but the draft HPP proposed expanding the review of housing elements and expanding technical assistance to local governments. Additionally, the Council could encourage cities' comprehensive plans to align with Consolidated Plans and the Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Council members agreed that if we are going to make additional requirements for cities, we should provide additional technical assistance to those communities lacking the resources. The Allocation for Affordable Housing Need for 2011-2020 has already been determined, however, the draft HPP proposes updating the Need for 2021-2030, refining transit, jobs-housing mismatch and existing housing stock adjustments. The Council could choose to add segregation as an adjustment factor to the Need and weight the existing affordable housing stock more strongly. The Council members discussed these options, the allocation of resources, fair share and how this would affect communities and residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:29PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary