

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Phillip Klein, Gerald Bruner, Dan Roe, Chair Wendy Wulff, Trista MatasCastillo, Courtney Schroeder, April Graves, Kathi Mocol, Jonathan Bottema, Steve Morris, Noah Keller, Jennifer Geisler

Committee Members Absent:

Mitra Jalali Nelson, Kathi Hemken, Mark Nelson, Karl Drotning, Saudo Abdi, Vince Workman

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wulff called the WebEx meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Wulff asked for a consensus to approve the May 21, 2020 agenda. The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Wulff, asked for a motioned to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. It was motioned by Bruner and seconded by Klein to approve the minutes.

Secretary Dingle performed a roll call vote:

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion carried.

INFORMATION

Metro Climate Stats – Mauricio Leon, Research

Leon gave a presentation on the Metro Climate Stats as outlined in the materials provided. First, he discussed green-house gas inventory. Leon shared a link: <https://metro council.org/tcghginventory.aspx> and encouraged LUAC members to take a look at it.

Leon discussed scenario planning and the four different scenarios related to transportation and land use including:

- Business as usual
- Land use and transit
- Emerging technologies
- Building energy and circular economy

MatasCastillo asked how the COVID stay at home order impacts this and the future planning? She asked what are we learning about people not commuting as they were? Also, what, if any, does urban farming impact carbon reduction in land use and compact living? Does the study take into account cost analysis of each strategy – like bike infrastructure – less expensive and greater impact, etc.? Leon discussed stakeholder meetings where telecommuting is being discussed as becoming very desirable. He noted that the pandemic is giving us lots of data. Regarding farming, he stated this is a strategy where staff are looking at priorities, i.e., cost benefits, equity benefits, and technology.

MatasCastillo stated she would love more discussion on this and not rush it. She feels it is really incredible.

Bruner asked if this is just the seven county or whole state? Leon responded it is just the seven-county metro.

Leon noted the state has a goal to reduce emissions by 15% and asked agencies for help with climate change mitigation. He stated the Council's Research department is in a good position to help with this research.

Klein asked what type of outreach to communities is being done to get them more interested in participating. He also asked about costs.

Leon responded that they held a stakeholder engagement and let them know this is a tool for them and also that it's a work in progress.

Wulff asked with changes in transportation due to COVID, is the consultant considering disrupted parameters? Are they looking at these changes and what may be done differently? Leon responded this is our last meeting of engagement before staff make this tool. He noted they are leveraging the most up-to-date data.

Bruner stated he feels people won't change unless they have to. He asked if 75% of emissions associated with cities has gone up or down? Leon stated that staff are not meeting our goals in transportation sector. The electric sector is doing better. Staff are focusing on benefits as one way to motivate others.

Leon asked if there is anything else Committee members would like Research to look at.

Graves asked how we are going to find solutions to tackle the problems and connect to resources. She stated the data is great and added that steps to address solutions would be great. Leon discussed the resources and establishing priorities to identify what is the 'best bang for the buck.'

MatasCastillo responded she would like to see individual impacts – let folks know why they should do something and let them know what the impacts would be. Leon stated that this is a great idea, but it may be difficult to identify individual impacts, but people need to consider the long-term effects.

Roe stated he would like to see best practices – land use policies and zoning that can help.

Chair Wulff suggested emailing staff with any further questions.

Regional Parks System Additions Project – Collin Kelly, Regional Parks and Natural Resources and Dan Marckel, Research

Kelly gave a presentation on the regional parks system additions project process update as outlined in the materials provided.

Marckel discussed what a mature or complete regional park system looks like.

Mocol stated more connections are needed.

Geisler stated that from a land use perspective, it's about planning and making sure there is land for future parks and trails.

Graves stated that she thinks about equity of experiences and accessibility – where should we acquire land and what should be there.

Bottema discussed the presentation for Three Rivers Park District regarding trails and noted that there needs to be coordination of development with communities.

Marckel stated one reason for doing this project is to encourage agencies to work with communities as they update their 2040 Comprehensive Plans.

Keller asked about wind turbans on park lands. Chair Wulff stated that the short answer is no. She added that the intent of the Regional Park system is to keep park lands more nature based.

Marckel noted that one of the opportunities we are seeing is trails being placed along utility corridors. He added that big regional parks are intended to be nature based.

MatasCastillo discussed incorporating urban farming into our parks. Chair Wulff noted that there is one already – Gail Woods – that is a regional park/working farm.

Marckel noted that control of specifics is left to the implementing agencies.

MatasCastillo would like to see a fully accessible park. Chair Wulff noted that this is a good suggestion. She discussed design that goes beyond ramps.

Schroeder agreed on accessibility and asking what is an accessible and inclusive park system.

Recount on Approval of Minutes

Detrick asked that with a couple more Committee members now present there may need to be another vote on the minutes as there was one abstention, and she didn't feel a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Chair Wulff, with a quorum now present, asked for a motioned to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. It was motioned by Schroeder and seconded by Graves to approve the minutes.

Secretary Dingle performed a roll call vote:

Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Abstention: 1

The motion carried.

Regional Parks System Additions Project – Continued

Kelly discussed the 2019-2020 system additions process to date, as well as next steps, as outlined in the materials provided.

Morris asked if the Regional Parks Policy Plan will come back to LUAC for review as a group. Wulff stated it will not, but it will be shared, and Committee members may comment during the public comment period.

Bruner asked about recent news on park rankings. Kelly acknowledged that Minneapolis Parks regained the Trust for Public Land's top spot for top 100 cities and St. Paul came in third.

Bruner asked if it's the Metropolitan Council's policy to try to connect existing trails or make new ones. Kelly stated yes to both the creation of new opportunities or connecting existing or future parks.

Bruner asked if it is the Metropolitan Council's policy to support existing parks or give more money to outlying parks. Chair Wulff stated the majority of acquisition money goes to outer areas. Every agency gets a portion of money by formula (a small amount) for operations and maintenance but largely their operations and maintenance money is provided by the agencies themselves.

Chair Wulff encouraged members to send any additional questions to staff.

Typology of Change in Suburban Communities – Jake Reilly, Local Planning Assistance

Reilly gave a presentation on the Typology of Change in Suburban Communities as outlined in the materials provided – focusing on the resource library. He walked through the three website components and asked members to keep the four questions provided in the materials in mind.

Schroeder stated he has reviewed this online and found it helpful. He stated it is great, however, he found the axis titles on graphs were hard to read.

Bottema stated that he did not learn anything new about his own city. He felt the information was not that helpful for elected officials and didn't find the links and resources helpful.

Roe felt the tool and especially the resources are helpful. He felt it would be especially helpful to a newly elected or appointed official.

Bruner stated that he missed part of the presentation because of technology problems. Chair Wulff asked staff to be available later.

Chair Wulff stated she used it with an iPad and her desktop and found it much more user friendly on the computer. She felt the graphs could be misleading and felt it would be interesting to see other areas of the country.

Chair Wulff told Reilly she did the survey before trying the technology and would like to take it again. Reilly stated that was fine.

Chair Wulff asked committee members to send additional questions to Reilly.

Reilly asked if Schroeder has any specific feedback that he could provide in writing.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary