

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Jon Commers, Pamela Harris, Chip Halbach, Phillip Klein, Bill Droste, Marvin Johnson, James Saefke, Bill Neuendorf, James McClean, Kristina Smitten, Kathi Mocol, Jennifer Geisler, and Kathi Hemken

Committee Members Absent:

Elizabeth Kautz, and Elizabeth Wefel

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Commers called the regular meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Saefke, seconded by Droste, to approve the September 17, 2015 agenda of the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee.

Chair Commers asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Hemken, seconded by Klein, to approve the July 16, 2015, minutes of the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee.

Motion carried with one abstention.

INFORMATION

Membership Update and 2016 Work Plan– Jon Commers, Chair LUAC

Commers welcomed new member, Jennifer Geisler a City Councilmember in Coon Rapids. He noted that there are still a few vacancies in Districts 3, 4, 7 and 16. He did say that there were a couple applicants for District 16 and an appointment would be made soon. He asked members to forward any suggestions of candidates for the other Districts to either himself or staff.

Commers stated that the November 19 meeting of LUAC would include discussions on water supply planning and conservation. He also noted the potential for preparation for System Statement Hearings if any should be requested. Discussion of the 2016 Work Plan will also be had and Commers encouraged members to bring their ideas for topics of interest.

Regional Economic Competitiveness – Mark VanderSchaaf, Direction Regional Planning, Community Development Division

VanderSchaaf gave a presentation on the Regional Economic Competitiveness/Local Comp Planning as outlined in the materials provided.

Harris asked if occupations were matched to the Federal Department of Labor Occupation Outlook handbook. VanderSchaaf stated that yes they used the standard occupation categories and noted that they've also been working with DEED and Greater MSP to ensure that this is being reported in a way that is meaningful to others.

Halbach asked what actions have come out of this analysis. VanderSchaaf stated that this is done to provide information to local communities on a voluntary basis. He stated that economic competitiveness is not required. He then talked

about an equity lens being used for the Council's work but noted they are now looking to develop more of a prosperity lens as well.

Neuendorf asked if this information is on-line now. VanderSchaaf stated that some of it is now and some will be in the future. He noted that the Local Planning Handbook will be continually evolving.

Halbach discussed reinvestment in areas of poverty and noted it is being discussed. VanderSchaaf noted that the Committee of the Whole is having these discussions. He also discussed a central city economic strategy.

How Broadband Infrastructure Contributes to Economic Development – Tom Garrison, Communications Direction, City of Eagan

Council Member Chavez, District 15 provided quick context to Garrison's presentation and discussed infrastructure/telecommunications and how broadband infrastructure contributes to economic development. He talked about the major impediment for businesses in Eagan with cable. Chavez stated that key words he wanted to talk about were persistence, perseverance, and community development. He asked members to think about how Garrison's presentation could work in their communities.

Garrison discussed what Eagan is doing with broadband infrastructure to encourage economic development. He discussed their strategies which tend to be carrier neutral. He discussed impacts, lessons learned, and best practices outlined in the materials provided.

Klein asked if the infrastructure is going in the roadway. Garrison stated it's going primarily into the Boulevard right of way.

Droste discussed the number of fiber rings and discussed good reasons for having 'systems' (much like our waste water system) that go beyond city boundaries. Garrison agreed and stated that within cities, the more you can complete your own ring is a good thing, but regionally as well. He discussed getting entire counties connected.

Harris discussed how this benefits the residents and cities. Garrison discussed where people live and stated that employees want to work from home.

Geisler discussed working from home and how this is one way to help solve transportation issues. She then asked how the infrastructure in Eagan was put in and managed. Garrison stated that they have added two staff members with the skills set needed – a private sector marketing background. He stated they also used consultants and hired a network administrator. He stated the physical installation was outsourced.

Halbach asked what the cost savings is to the end consumer. Garrison responded that it is too early to tell.

Halbach asked what went into deciding where to put the infrastructure. Garrison stated a cluster analysis was done to determine where the biggest concentrations of businesses were. He discussed additional connections/availability in the event of a catastrophe.

McClellan asked about long term financial turnaround. Garrison discussed clarifying the nature of their goals. Is it to make money and lower taxes? This could be one. Is it to recover the investment? Is it to use it as an economic development tool to attract business?

Klein asked if there needed to be a significant amount of industry to supply a data center. Garrison stated he would like to see more carrier hotels. He stated we have many companies that need constant uptime.

Commerz summarized the reasons for this discussion.

Garrison discussed cyber security front and the need for collaboration.

System Statements – LisaBeth Barajas, Manager, Local Planning Assistance

Barajas discussed what goes into System Statements (SS) that were mailed today and what it means for LUAC. She stated that the SS are the official notification to local units of governments letting them know that systems have been updated and how the changes affect each community as well as informing cities of the Comprehensive Plan Update process. She noted they were sent certified mail and cities have 60 days to request a hearing.

Harris asked if the Met Council has the authority to require a local government to modify their plan. Barajas responded essentially – yes. Harris asked what the recourse for the city is. Barajas stated they can appeal through the State court system.

Detrick stated that when communities request a hearing it is usually a request to modify something in their SS.

Smitten asked once a hearing is requested, is there a time frame for the hearing to be held. Barajas stated it needs to be held within 60 days or by a mutually agreed upon time.

Halbach asked in terms of timing, when do issues become enforceable. Barajas discussed the Met Council's policy adopted last year and noted starting January 1, 2016, any new plans or amendments would need to conform to region's systems plans for 2040.

Commers discussed geographic planning areas and noted that this commission had a lot of influence in these areas.

Local Planning Handbook Launch – Angela Torres, Senior Planner, Local Planning Assistance

Torres gave a brief overview of the Local Planning Handbook launched today online. She thanked the commission for their input in the development of this handbook. She discussed the work of external focus groups and testing outcomes. She noted, in terms of next steps, this is something that will be built upon, updated, improved, and maintained.

Halbach asked if there is anything related to Housing in 'phase 2' or the next update of the handbook. Torres stated not at this time.

Harris asked about planning grant opportunities for cities. Torres stated that on the Community Page there is info regarding grant information and other service programs available.

Transit Oriented Development Guide Update – Michael Larson, Senior Planner, Local Planning Assistance and Deb Detrick, Planning Analyst

Detrick and Larson gave an update on the TOD Guide and discussed the approach, content and timing, updates, and sample of products as outlined in the materials provided. Detrick noted that an email including sample products provided at today's meeting will be sent to members and welcome additional comments.

Larson reiterated they are still looking for and appreciate feedback from members.

Detrick discussed the project example provided and the TOD Classification Tool provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Next Meeting – November 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary