

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:05PM on Wednesday, September 4, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Chávez seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Chávez to approve the minutes from the August 28 Committee of the Whole special meeting. **Motion carried.**

THRIVE MSP 2040

Overview of Key Themes on Regionally Significant Economic Places from Thrive MSP 2040 Phase II Outreach and Engagement—Dan Marckel

Dan provided an overview of the document containing all comments regarding regionally significant economic places that were collected on comment cards at the Thrive MSP 2040 Phase II Roundtables. The comments were organized by the following themes: economic competitiveness, collaboration, livability, integration, marketing, businesses, agriculture, transit, transportation, infrastructure, locations, demographics, education, equity, and governance.

Overview of Council Policy Options on Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity—Libby Starling and Dan Marckel

Libby and Dan distributed a discussion paper on economic competitiveness and prosperity. The Council proposed goals for Thrive MSP 2040; the goal that relates to this topic states “a vibrant and globally competitive economy creates opportunities for residents and employers.” Regional economic competitiveness is strategic, long-term and focused on the region’s economic strengths relative to other regions. Economic drivers, also known as basic sectors, are industries that export a product or service beyond the region. The Council already advances economic competitiveness in a variety of ways, including the efficient movement of people and freight, by providing cost-effective and efficient wastewater treatment, by contributing to a quality of life and cost structure that attract and retain a talented workforce, by working with local jurisdictions to provide access and infrastructure to employment locations, and by creating a consistent framework for land use planning. Community development plays a big role in the Council’s economic competitiveness efforts. The Council discussed promoting economic competitiveness in local comprehensive planning. They agreed to encourage local units of government to listen to business voices early in the local comprehensive planning process. There are best practices models in place for doing this.

The Council also discussed whether they should create venues for businesses to communicate their comprehensive plan concerns to local governments. The Council agreed this would likely be something we could learn from, but it is probably best to let the local units of government handle business’ concerns.

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Priorities for Affordable Housing in Thrive MSP 2040—Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group

The group discussed the housing performance scores and agreed they should have more depth. There was a request to discontinue use of the term “gentrification” as it has negative connotations.

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Transportation Policy (Transit Investments) in Thrive MSP 2040—Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group

The group approved of the proposed policy direction and had no changes.

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Transportation Policy (Bicycle and Pedestrian) in Thrive MSP 2040—
Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group
The group approved of the proposed policy direction and had no changes.

Review of Proposed Policy Direction for Transportation Policy (Highway Investments) in Thrive MSP 2040—
Gary Van Eyll on behalf of the Thrive Working Group
The group approved of the proposed policy direction. There was one suggestion to preserve the right of way where it may be needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:40PM.

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary