

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Gerald Bruner, Jennifer Geisler, Kathi Hemken, Phillip Klein, Dan Roe, Courtney Schroeder, Jonathan Bottema, Noah Keller, Steve Morris, Mark Nelson, Chair Wendy Wulff

Committee Members Absent:

Suado Abdi, Karl Drotning, April Graves, Trista MatasCastillo, Kathi Mocol, Mitra Jalali

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wulff called the WebEx meeting of the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:06 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Wulff asked for a consensus to approve the July 15, 2021, agenda. The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Wulff asked for a motion to approve the May 20, 2021, minutes. It was motioned by Klein and seconded by Morris to approve the minutes.

Secretary Dingle performed a roll call vote:

Ayes: 9 (Bruner, Geisler, Klein, Roe, Schroeder, Keller, Morris, Nelson, Wulff)

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

The minutes were approved.

BUSINESS

There were no business items on the agenda.

INFORMATION

2040 Debrief of Comprehensive Plan Updates – Patrick Boylan, Local Planning Assistance

Boylan discussed his 2040 debrief project to evaluate and conduct engagement looking at Comprehensive Plan Updates as outlined in the materials provided. He posed the following questions for discussion.

1. What did your community hope to get out of the comprehensive planning process?

Klein stated they found in Hugo that they didn't do much beyond updating the years and that the plans hadn't changed that much.

Roe stated as mayor of Roseville he was involved with the process of the past update. He stated this most recent update was more of a 'light update,' however, he did address a few issues, i.e., BRT, etc. He stated the hope was for a minor update, but as they got into it, they spent more time.

Geisler stated Coon Rapids struggled with peers seeing the value in the Comprehensive Plan Update process and found it frustrating.

Bruner related that most residents in Watertown Township want to keep it rural. He stated they passed an ordinance on solar projects that was much stricter than Carver County's ordinance.

Klein recognized that they did have a sector representative that they felt they were educating more than receiving help from them. He discussed numerous rejections of their plan from the Met Council.

2. If you could change one aspect of the process what would it be? *It could be technical assistance, process, communication, resources, or something else.*

Klein stated they'd like to write the goals themselves rather than being told what their goals should be, i.e., they can't get housing because of lack of transit.

Roe stated after doing most of the work they had to redo a lot more work because of changes to population estimates and also changes in manufactured homes. He also discussed getting new or changed requirements out sooner and then freeze any changes or expectations.

Geisler stated they have staff to their plan but agreed with Roe. She asked for better instructions that would give council members more engagement.

Boylan noted that he welcomes additional comments via email.

Wulff asked what is required and what's not. She also felt 'graded' on livable community issues.

Boylan asked how do changes in comp plans relate to council changes. Wulff stated new Council Members may not agree with comp plans.

Morris discussed resources/training for new Council Members may help get buy-in from new members.

3. How would you change it? And why?

Bottema stated Corcoran had trouble with the 'moving target' (i.e., changing expectations) and they also have a small budget, yet expectations are the same. He added that the issue with their solutions weren't okayed by the Met Council, so it went back and forth. He didn't feel there was any flexibility and feels the Met Council could lay out a better template and accept less of a robust plan from smaller cities.

Hemken stated they have had open meetings and also training from the Met Council.

Geisler stated the most effective way is through communication. She suggested different templates for different size cities.

Bruner stated in the Township, most residents don't know what the Met Council does and asked what the Met Council does. He asked what the Met Council could do to support the planning process. Boylan stated staff can look at ways to improve. Bruner stated he would like to see the Met Council engage with townships and show how the planning can help the township.

Torres noted a lot of resources provide resources to preserve rural areas and ag preserves.

4. In your opinion, what are the most effective ways in which the Council can support communities during the comprehensive planning process?

Hemken stated she found her staff to be very comfortable calling with questions and stated staff was very helpful.

Wulff responded (regarding costs) that LUAC looks at grants to help distribute planning money to help smaller communities.

Roe asked (regarding the process on resubmittals), is there a way to be more collaborative and less formal process.

Wulff noted that there were improvements made to the submittal process during the review period.

Bottema stated this is a big issue with the Met Council they have and considered not doing them. He feels it is very challenging. Boylan stated they could talk more 'offline' about this.

5. What resources/technical assistance can the Council provide to help with those challenges?

Klein asked if actions taken from the outcomes of the focus groups will be shared. Boylan stated yes, there will be a report.

Boylan discussed next steps. Wulff asked if anyone wants to give more feedback to contact Boylan.

PlanIt Implementation Program – Raya Esmaeili, Local Planning Assistance

Esmaeili gave a presentation on the PlanIt Implementation project as outlined in the materials provided. She stated the goal today is to focus on implementation and the extend resources to help communities with this.

Klein stated their staff liked PlanIt.

Esmaeili noted that Committee members can feel free to send additional comments via email.

Source Water Protection and Connections to Land Use – Lanya Ross, Water Supply Planning

Ross gave a presentation on source water protection and connections to land use outlined in the presentation provided.

Morris asked if there are members from the DNR and PCA? Ross responded that there are. Morris noted that communities will differ and added that all of their systems/policies will be driven around the 3M lawsuit.

Klein agreed and stated they will be bound by the White Bear Lake judge's decision.

Bruner noted if there's no rain, planning is difficult.

Ross discussed the state drought task force and also discussed research being done at the University of Minnesota.

Klein discussed abuse of use of their storm water ponds.

Roe discussed tailoring message as to how they can make a difference.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Dingle
Recording Secretary