

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
**390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Susan Haigh, Steven Chávez, Jon Commers, Gary Cunningham, Steve Elkins, Richard Kramer, Harry Melander, Edward Reynoso, Sandra Rummel, Lona Schreiber, Roxanne Smith, Gary Van Eyll, Wendy Wulff

Members Absent: James Brimeyer, John Đoàn, Adam Duininck, Jennifer Munt

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Kramer to approve the agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2012. **Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 18, 2012. **Motion Carried.**

1. [Draft Vision](#)

Meredith Salsbery discussed the amended version of the draft vision included more text and it integrated the work from the Dodge Nature Center retreat sessions. The mission statement was shortened from the 2010 statement, using key words; values, partnership, collaboration, and respect. In the condensed version of the 2040 framework the emphasis is on how we continue delivering services, stewardship, housing choices, affordable vs assessable, multi modal transportation. Ms. Salsbery requested feedback for changes, and revisions to encapsulate the Metropolitan Council vision of one region, one economy. Chair Haigh commented this is a broad theme and constructive feedback not just word-smithing be submitted via email.

Van Eyll praised the mission statement, thought it was great, contains values, and the mission statement is easy to remember.

Kramer commented it can fit on the back of a bus.

Cunningham also praised the statement, and complemented the staff for a great job.

Wulff also complemented the vision statements, thought it was perfect the way it is and much easier to read than the last one.

Chávez agreed with Wulff and requested a version in word for edits. He also suggested the need for consistency in the wording of “region” compared to “twin cities”.

Salsbery asked the Committee if there was a preference.

Chair Haigh responded Region.

Elkins responded the twin cities’ mayor have another preference.

Rummel stated she likes the statements regarding being effective stewards of our region.

Chair Haigh asked for a due date on the edits.

Salsbery suggested using a word format.

Chair stated the edits are due Friday to Salsbery.

Born suggested activating the tracking feature on the document to track the changes.

## 2. [Review draft RDF outline](#)

Ann Beckman discussed the elements of the Framework, how the document is a more integrated, starting with an introduction, then priorities, forecasts; people, age distribution, jobs and physical infrastructure, regional economy, Transit corridors, and finally Parks and Open Space. Beckman also introduced policy scenarios – “what if we did this or that”. She also suggested a technical appendix.

Beckman explained the efforts made for a broader outreach and strategies, including housing strategies with elevated region-wide goals, broken down to specific policy strategies; regional and local. Also woven into the plan is sustainability; ES, Transit goals, operational, Land Use planning and the important partners for sustainability; Federal – funding from HUD, Transportation, State; MnDOT, DNR, Local; key stakeholders. Other non-profit key funders, liaisons, or underrepresented groups, and business owners are included in the outreach effort.

Beckman emphasized the importance of system investments, incentives, and performance measures trigger policy changes.

Chair Haigh asked about regional measures, as in the information from TC Compass?

Beckman commented while monitoring the return on investment they do not want to duplicate the work of TC Compass. Her goal is more explanation directed at desired outcomes.

Cunningham suggested progress be tied in with performance measures.

Beckman responded performance measures are an opportunity to review broader challenges for each region in the district. She gave example of LUAC meeting in June.

Cunningham stated it is hard to compare different regions. How would you develop economic benchmarks, compared over times, to produce a set of measures?

Chávez commented on section IV regarding systems

Beckman stated the intention to speak broadly regarding some topics, for example Water; surface, ground. And the technical appendix will provide more detail if desired by the reader.

Commers suggested narratives, forecasts, as broad cues to the reader.

Elkins suggested the document segmented by systems and at the end tie the 4 sections together.

Beckman confirmed starting the vision statement with a message for the people. Commers suggested an implementation section; exploring integrating systems. Beckman explained there is a large focus on implementation and measuring outcomes.

Rummel asked is sustainability part of the goals or something bigger.

Beckman responded sustainability explains housing, water, trail systems, and it also focuses on what's new, and new challenges, for example air quality.

Chair Haigh suggested a one page mission/vision/values statement which identifies the economy, and economic growth. The staff can decide.

### 3. [Fair Housing and Equity Assessment](#)

Libby Starling started the dialogue regarding equity by providing the committee an overview. Her PowerPoint explained the proposed structure across the RDF; Understanding, Engagement, and integration. She explained how the Framework will provide information to the public and define Fair Housing issues, and public investments. FHEA will address and demonstrate trends and patterns. The FHEA work of the Council staff will use these findings for engagement and plays a strong role in regional planning.

Schreiber asked for a timeline.

Starling stated the information is for 2012 regional planning.

Chair Haigh asked how this ties into jobs.

Starling responded the language translates to high opportunity / high number of jobs.

Cunningham asked if the language focused on disparities, or different modeling. We don't want another report; we want access and opportunity for all. What will be different? Some issues we have no influence, for example, Education.

Commers asked for a working definition of what equity means?

Chair Haigh thanked Ms. Starling for the update, stating it is getting clearer.

### 4. [Invited stakeholder input at March and April COW meetings and Framing Questions](#)

Guy Peterson described the proposed agendas for the next three Committee of the Whole meetings. Invited stakeholders will present to the committee. Each presenter will have 15 minutes. Committee members will have questions that address the issues and challenges, and roles. The first set of speakers will focus broadly on the Framework, the second set of speakers will address affordable housing, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> set will address Transportation and economic development. Chávez suggested possible presentations by MAC, developers, and the Federal Reserve.

Chair Haigh agreed with CM Chávez, and suggested the addition of ULI.

Peterson suggested the Builders Association.

Elkins suggested home builders

Chair Haigh suggested a speaker on TOD leadership

Elkins suggested speakers from ULI, SLUC

Van Eyll inquired if the prepared questions are specific, with specific goals. He doesn't want the questions to be too easy.

Rummel stated to make the question tough, offer the speakers some of the dilemmas faced by the Council.

Commers suggested more of a private sector mix.

Schreiber agreed stating they learn from each other.

Chair Haigh noticed some entities excluded from the list; TAB, Scott County. Will they be given a chance to speak?

Peterson stated he anticipates the Committee interacting with many stakeholders.

Chair Haigh suggested inviting comments in writing.

Reynoso stated more meeting time will be necessary.

Chair Haigh agreed. The next three meetings will start at 3:30 and end at 6:30.

Born commented this outreach and engagement will seek a very broad range of interests.

Peterson agreed that is effort and intent.

Chair Haigh directed the Committee to submit stakeholder questions to Guy.

Peterson will compile input for invitees.

5. Outreach and Engagement (*no materials included*)

Salsbery provided the Committee an outline on outreach and engagement. Why do we want to engage? Outreach and engagement is a way to share input from people and their interests in a share vision.

Starling topic was why does RDF matter? The RDF impacts the region's quality of life, decision impact the environment, Parks, trails, affordable housing and value to all citizens.

Salsbery described the model, the proposed approach; listen, learn, educate, promote.

Chair Haigh directed the Committee to get ready for phone calls.

Starling commented on the broad categories of stakeholders. She acknowledged residents of color, changing needs of different generations, needs of employers, policy advocates, and council watchers. The intent is to reach out broadly, not to just the loudest group.

Salsbery explained some of the strategies; traditional and non-traditional; such as extending invitations to umbrella organizations, for example the League of Women Voters and the use of technology to provide online options to engage people. For example, residents surveys, social media, and public meetings.

Starling commented the O & E is still quite broad; the next step is a more detailed plan. She asked how the Committee would like to be updated. And what specific types of information to identified. Should existing organizations be contacted from different districts across the metro area?

Commers asked what are the expectations of the RDF? And the effect on people, funding, and the impact in the long run.

Salsbery stated non-traditional groups have other issues which to be engaged, those issues can be used to build relationships, networking, and a feeling of accessibility to the Council.

Chair Haigh stated she was excited using an informal structure for engaging groups.

Kramer indicated this will work well and if the input is not what we're asking, i.e. a complaint, we'll have the mechanism to move it along.

Salsbery agreed, the staff will have a common presentation, background, and tools to route feedback to correct entity.

Chair affirmed these are all great comments.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business. Noted the next meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> will start at 3:30

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner, Recording Secretary