

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
4:00PM

Members Present: Chair Susan Haigh, Steven Chávez, Roxanne Smith, Lona Schreiber, Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Adam Duininck, Sandra Rummel, Rich Kramer, Jon Commers, Wendy Wulff

Members Absent: Edward Reynoso, Gary Van Eyll, James Brimeyer, Gary Cunningham, Harry Melander, John Đoàn

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Smith to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Kramer to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Thrive MSP 2040

Overview of Thrive MSP 2040 Timeline and Context for Working Principles and Working Goals—Libby Starling

Libby provided a brief overview of the Council's timeline for Thrive MSP 2040. Currently, Councilmembers are engaged in Thrive MSP 2040 Listening Sessions in their districts. Discussions are being held to determine the Council's vision, principles and goals, and to ensure that everyone is on the same page. The goal for today's meeting was for the Council to settle on the overall principles for the Thrive document. The intent is for the principles to be the values that guide the Council's decisions, and help outline the connections across the systems. The principles are bigger than any one policy area, bigger than any one system, bigger than any one division of the Council. They are the overarching ideas that cut across all parts of the Thrive MSP 2040 plan. The principles will also allow us to work on informing specific policy decisions and serve as lenses through which to evaluate the actions and proposals that will occur throughout the Thrive planning process.

Proposal for Thrive Working Principles from the Thrive MSP 2040 Working Group—Sandra Rummel

(Thrive Working Group Chair, Gary Van Eyll, was absent)

The six Working Principles are:

- **Acting Regionally:** The ability to do the big things that no one community can do alone.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** The commitment to address major issues and changing conditions by engaging government, the private sector, regional institutions and the public to implement a shared vision.
- **Stewardship:** The care we as stewards exercise over our resources to ensure the region's financial, social and environmental sustainability, now and for generations to come.
- **Economic Prosperity:** The goal of leveraging the region's infrastructure investments and human resources, fostering a resilient, adaptable and innovative economy that creates opportunities for all.
- **Equity:** The access all residents have to opportunities such as good jobs, transportation choices, safe and stable housing, a range of parks and natural areas, and vibrant public spaces.
- **Livability:** The blessing of a region known for safe, healthy and welcoming communities where people want to be.

The principles will be used as a lens whenever the Council needs to make a decision. The purpose was to look at the principles and evaluate whether anything was missing, but not to wordsmith.

Chair Haigh stated that the suggestions were good descriptions of adjectives, but there should be a difference between what the Council will act on and what it stands for. Chair Haigh suggested that a staff person could look over the list and put it in a more active voice.

Elkins stated the bullet points did a good job of capturing the discussion from the previous COW meeting.

Chávez asked whether the order meant anything, and Chair Haigh answered that order always matters in communication. Rummel stated that Acting Regionally came first because it is straight out of the Council's mission statement, and the remaining principles need to occur in order to establish Livability.

The Councilmembers discussed changing the order.

Discussion on Thrive Working Goals—Steven Chávez

Chávez showed a PowerPoint presentation to introduce the cornerstones established by the Working Group.

The cornerstones are: Growth & Governance, Mobility, Housing & Health, and Environment & Energy. The cornerstones are interconnected and impact each other to establish a measurable outcome.

Commers stated that the group started brainstorming ideas for goals and as they made links across the principles, there was a map that began to emerge.

The Councilmembers discussed changing the words used in the cornerstones.

Chair Haigh stated that perhaps Development would be a better word to use than Governance, which may work on its own.

Wulff said there may be some push-back on Health & Housing since Health is often a State government role.

Commers stated that everyone wants clarity about the roles of government agencies and this may be a good opportunity to be clear about our regulatory responsibilities and roles.

Elkins suggested using the term Access instead of Mobility.

Energy & Environment was suggested and the group discussed whether it was appropriate to include Energy. Rummel said that the Council's Environmental Services division has done a lot of work on energy conservation.

Munt said that she wants Mobility & Access, Growth & Economic Development, Energy & Environment, and Housing & Healthy Communities to be the cornerstones.

Rummel asked if the goals should be outcome-based.

Chair Haigh stated that she expects there to be some goals that are more amenable to being outcome-based, and the more outcome-based we can be, the better.

Chair Haigh complimented the group's progress. Schreiber complimented Libby's hard work and dedication.

The Councilmembers were asked to respond with their suggestions for goals.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary