

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

4:04 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Susan Haigh, Gary Van Eyll, Steve Elkins, James Brimeyer, Adam Duininck, Edward Reynoso, John Đoàn, Sandra Rummel, Richard Kramer, Steven Chávez, Wendy Wulff

Members Absent: Jon Commers, Gary Cunningham, Harry Melander, Jennifer Munt, Lona Schreiber, Roxanne Smith

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Legislative Special Session Outcome

Chair Haigh started the meeting with an update of the recent legislative special session. The committee thanked Susan Haigh, Chair; Pat Born, Regional Administrator; Judd Schetnan, Government Affairs; and Wes Kooistra, Chief Financial Officer, for their hard work at the Capitol. Judd Schetnan and Wes Kooistra gave a summary of the legislation affecting the Met Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Wulff to approve the agenda.

Overview of Regional Development Framework and Sustainable Development Plan update process

Council staff Guy Peterson, Ann Beckman and John Kari presented an overview of the sustainable development plan, and the plan for updating the Regional Development Framework (RDF). Staff reviewed how the region has changed and identified pressing issues. Staff presented an outline of the Sustainable Development Plan, and noted that Council members will be preparing the Outreach Plan next year. Staff reviewed key elements of the RDF.

Council members identified other pressing issues:

- Water--including infrastructure costs for pipes, issues regarding Sewer Availability Charge implications and implications of Infiltration and Inflow policies.
- Concern about redevelopment costs particularly regarding the costs for "aging in place" programs.

- Concern about the importance of preservation of the existing housing stock, and redevelopment potential of tired shopping centers, and older apartment buildings which help serve as the region's affordable housing supply.
- Energy issues
- Housing affordability, and ways to measure it, including adding transportation costs in as a factor in determining a family's need.
- Concern about the transparency of the assumptions and trends underlying Council policy.
- Awareness of change in the types of jobs available and the mobility of certain economies (book stores as an example).
- How the concept of mega regions will affect our region. Concern about Airport viability (tied to economic competitiveness).
- Transit - the internal and external links necessary to keep the system vibrant.
- Pace of change is accelerating. Example: new technologies. How do we accommodate that in regional planning needs.

Roles and responsibilities of regional partners in the planning process:

- What is Academia's role? – The Quality of educational system and quality of schools are determining factors for household choice.
- Request for Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.
- Discussion about "knowledge centers".
- Discussion about how the Metropolitan Council is organized and governance issues. Desire to challenge partners on some of these issues.

The next three Committee of the Whole meetings will focus on infrastructure investments in preparation for the Vision and Goal setting meeting in November. The planned meetings are: August 3, 2011 – Transportation; September 21, 2011 – Water resources and Housing; October 19, 2011 – Parks and Implementation; and November 16 – Vision and Goal Setting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Nistl, Secretary