

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
4:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: John Đoàn, Adam Duininck

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Smith to approve the agenda for the meeting of November 16, 2011. Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 19, 2011. Motion Carried.

Vision and Goal-Setting for the Regional Development Framework and Sustainable Development Plan - discussion by the Council Members, moderated by Ann Beckman, Regional Systems Planning and Growth Strategy Manager.

Framing questions discussed by the council members, **see attached session notes for responses to each question:**

- 1) What are the elements for a high quality of life for ALL our residents?
- 2) What makes a healthy region?
- 3) What contributes to a vibrant economy?
- 4) Why is it important for the region to have a strong sense of place?
- 5) What is essential infrastructure and what are essential regional services? How do we move toward fair access to these resources? How do we move toward closing the income/job/housing/wealth gap?

- 6) If we achieve our vision, how will the region be different? What will it look like? (What does a fully built-out transit corridor system look like?)
- 7) What does "sustainable" mean to the Council? (Does it mean access to services, green space, jobs and safe housing?)
- 8) Who are our stakeholders? How do we engage them in a meaningful discussion about the future of our region?
- 9) Where are the gaps? What should we be addressing/improving/focusing on? How can we be a better partner and leader?

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner, Recording Secretary

Metropolitan Council, Committee of the Whole

Visioning Session Notes

November 16, 2011

<i>Framing Question 1: What are the elements for a high quality life for ALL our residents?</i>		
Comment No.	COW Comments	Notes
1.1	Access (e.g. to jobs & schools), real choices	DPE sheet 1 ¹
1.2	Arts and cultural amenities, parks, quality of the environment	"
1.3	Diverse communities (all aspects, such as age et cetera)	"
1.4	Strong commercial sector, access to services, (well) performing schools, access to opportunity for all, integration w/o racial disparities	"
1.5	Our vision should reflect changing preferences	"
1.6	Safety is important too	"
1.7	Life-cycle housing	"
1.8	Livable wages	"
1.9	Re-craft "safe housing"	"
1.10	Safe housing is a narrow description and needs re-crafting; quality housing	LB sheet 1
1.11	Health care – open access to health care	"
1.12	access to arts and to open space, clean air and clean water	"
1.13	Quality education	"
1.14	Livable wages – too narrow ("output"); it's more about economic opportunity	"
1.15	Importance of good public transit system and access	"
<i>Framing Question 2: What makes a healthy region?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
2.1	Healthy region/economy sounds good; "Competitive region" sounds aggressive	DPE sheet 2
2.2	Healthy activity: engage people in healthy activity; safety – safe neighborhoods and safe spaces	"
2.3	The economy is a system of networks, no longer simply individual efforts	"
2.4	Compete as a region, not as Minneapolis and St. Paul, we need a vision of the region that is shared	"
2.5	Stability: regional tax base sharing, financial and economic stability, a diverse economic base	LB sheet 2
2.6	Maintains assets/infrastructure	"
2.7	Coordinate housing investment with land use	"
2.8	Reduce disparities	"
2.9	Vision for opportunity, economic development	"
2.10	Social cohesion	"
2.11	Robust philanthropic sector	"
<i>Framing Question 3: What contributes to a vibrant economy?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
3.1	Address gaps in racial employment and income	DPE sheet 3
3.2	Technology – gaps? Innovation & entrepreneurship	"

¹ This document includes notes from two note-takers who divided the task of recording Council members' comments. Each note-taker recorded comments from individuals seated on one particular side of the room. Both recorded the Chair's comments. Thus, similar comments may reflect part of a shared conversation, rather than repeated information.

3.3	Access to capital	“
3.4	Training and pathways to work	LB sheet 3
3.5	University and private R & D that leads to innovation	“
3.6	Effective public & civic institutions	“
3.7	Innovation & entrepreneurship	“
3.8	Adaptable to changing conditions	“
Framing Question 4: Why is it important for the region to have a strong sense of place?		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
4.1	Immigration/new Americans: welcoming for all	DPE sheet 4
4.2	Sense of place contributes to a stronger sense of community; a stronger sense of community contributes to all other good things	“
4.3	Need to get rid of Minnesota modesty – to brag about/promote what makes us feel good to be here	“
4.4	Sense of place helps the region compete. Institutions are important.	“
4.5	Need to spend time discussing what makes us unique – to brag about it	“
4.6	Need a regional “cheer leader,” this is it, and it’s important. Greater MSP is a good partner	“
4.7	Creates places that attract and retain people ; welcome place for all, including new Americans	LB sheet 4
4.8	Sense of space/place: a medium by which we connect, are known for something	“
4.9	Need a strong sense of place to compete in the global marketplace	“
4.10	Educated workforce	“
4.11	What’s the differentiator (between this region and another)?	“
Framing Question 5: What is essential infrastructure and what are essential services?		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
5.1	Health, safety and mobility	DPE sheet 5a
5.2	It seems that we are talking about two things, that these are two questions. The second part of the question is a separate question.	“
5.3	This (see above) may need more discussion.	“
5.4	Infrastructure is a means to an end...have we covered all the necessary parts?	“
5.5	Framed as a “gap”... different groups are situated differently. What do we do to deal with this? Don’t think “gap”, think as position in relationship to opportunity. Access, not gap. Gap implies that one group loses in order for another to gain.	“
5.6	Fair access: how to address that not everybody had the same access to opportunity, “targeted universalism”	“
5.7	Access: indicators/quantifiable ways to measure access and figure out how to “move the dial”	
5.8	Fair access via transit: Infrastructure can serve dual roles (e.g. advance access to parks)	DPE Sheet 5b
5.9	What else can we do (regarding fair access) in addition to what we are doing now?	“
5.10	Infrastructure that plays more than one role (example trails for recreation and for transit); energy as part of public utilities	LB sheet 5a
5.11	Agree on “access” versus “gap”, focus on providing access to all. Opportunity-focused goal: fair access	“
5.12	Health care – not in our bailiwick, but contributes towards a lot of things	“
5.13	Need to focus on our mission	“

Notes: Committee of the Whole Visioning Session, November 16, 2011

5.14	Essential infrastructure = planning & research too	“
5.15	Are we sure that people’s recreational needs aren’t being met through other parks, (such as local and county), too?	“
5.16	Aligning the various Met Council activities	LB sheet 5b
5.17	The land use patterns that we adopt influence access	“
<i>Framing Question 6: If we achieve our vision, how will the region be different, what will it look like?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
6.1	Higher density, compact development, biking, walkability (compare to other northern cities, especially in Europe)	DPE Sheet 6
6.2	Creative zoning, land use approaches	“
6.3	Set the conditions to ensure that we don’t have isolated communities (e.g. land use, economy, TOD, housing, transit access)	“
6.4	Pick some areas where we can make a difference; then we can them be bold, courageous, and make ourselves proud. This can help us achieve our vision.	“
6.5	Expand opportunities for areas outside the core. Regional corridor “micro-economics.” Targeted universalism applies here too. How to address removing barriers (in the outer communities too)?	“
6.6	Incredible need for investment in maintenance, preservation of housing and other infrastructure. Care for previous investment.	“
6.7	Safe, walkable, vibrant, life-cycle neighborhoods	“
6.8	Thin metro-wide to create ideas. Respect micro-economies, other development types (farms, small towns).	“
6.9	Expand opportunities to people who live outside the core, in rural areas and outer suburbs	LB sheet 6
6.10	Need for investment on preservation & maintenance – not just the new; support investments that have already been made	“
6.11	Preserving agriculture opportunities	“
<i>Framing Question 7: What does “sustainable” mean to the Council?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
7.1	Meeting present needs without compromising future resources, options or opportunities.	DPE Sheet 7a
7.2	Sustainable is creating more than we consume	“
7.3	Financial sustainability, economic sustainability	DPE Sheet 7b
7.4	Environmental sustainability – using resources wisely	“
7.5	Financial sustainability – infrastructure	LB sheet 7
7.6	Build on our strengths	“
7.7	Create great places	“
7.8	Activate streets	“
7.9	Thoughtful approach to resource use	“
<i>Framing Question 8: Who are our stakeholders? How do we engage them in a meaningful discussion about the future of our region?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
8.1	Add employees of the entity (Council) to the list of stakeholders. (Commenting on a list of internal/external stakeholders in the PowerPoint presentation)	DPE sheet 8
8.2	Business community is engaged in corridor planning. Inclusion in more initiatives?	“

Notes: Committee of the Whole Visioning Session, November 16, 2011

8.3	We focus on groups that are organized: need to look also at individuals (e.g. transit customers, park users, et cetera). How we engage them is important.	
8.4	We need to find a way to reach those who are falling through the cracks in our services. Try visual preference surveys, other accessible methods	
8.5	Making local connection to the regional value is difficult – a “tough sale”	
8.6	Taxpayers	LB sheet 8
8.7	Business people/community, government relations staff of big companies	“
8.8	People who go to parks, use buses, our “customers”	“
8.9	This is an area of opportunity to tell our story in a bold way	“
8.10	How we engage stakeholders (is important); don’t just “tell” them	“
8.11	Correct negative misperceptions and reframe who we are (perceived to be)	“
8.12	Challenge of making connection between local interests and regional values	“
<i>Framing Question 9: Where are the gaps? What should we be addressing/improving/focusing on? How can we be a better partner and leader?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
9.1	New Americans, immigrants, seniors, ordinary citizens	DPE sheet 9, LB sheet 9
9.2	People with disabilities; ask what we can do different or better?	DPE sheet 9
9.3	Address/remind people of the value of the region (competitively)	“
9.4	Be explicit about areas where the Met Council will lead and areas where it will not	LB sheet 9
<i>Other ideas/discussion?</i>		
Comment No.	Comments	Notes
10.1	Vision, mission (broad) + operating mission for the organization (skinnier, shorter, and easier to communicate than Framework)	DPE sheet 10
10.2	Explore service-oriented communications and structuring	“
10.3	Value added, rather than prescriptive: provide tool boxes, help from the front-end so communities don’t run into problems (meeting Council requirements) at the back-end.	“
10.4	Provide summary of our work to constituents: communicate here is what we are working on; here is where we are going.	“
10.5	Remind folks of the value of regional planning and working together	LB sheet 9