

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

4:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Jon Commers, Gary Cunningham, Harry Melander

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Rummel to approve the agenda for the meeting of January 18, 2012. Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Van Eyll to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 16, 2011. Motion Carried.

Regional Development Framework: Council members

- 1) Review and discuss [draft vision statement](#)

Chair Haigh asked the RDF core team to introduce themselves. The team consists of Guy Peterson, Director, Community Development, Mark Vander Schaaf, Director, Regional Growth, Ann Beckman, Manager, Regional Growth & Parks, Libby Starling, Manager, Research department.

Chair Haigh opened the discussion of the draft vision statement. Is it too long? Does it capture comments from the previous meetings? Have we missed anything?

Beckman told the Committee to feel free to adjust the content of the Framework. She stated good planning has 3 necessary goals, language, and explanation to stakeholders. She suggested council members' submit edits via email.

Chair Haigh urged the council members review document for any missed concepts from a council member's perspective, important ideas, and circulate to the other council members.

Council member Brimeyer stated he does not want to word smith this document to death, and liked the sections; intro, values, desired results, strategies, methodology. But dislike the "fluffy" tone of the content. He suggests omitting the word "will" change to "we commit". Also suggests testing documents with city manager, neighborhood associations, etc.

Council member Chávez questioned the opening of the document. Is the opening the vision? Is it a statement of current state or aspiration? And the concept on page 2 regarding equity, add more to concept, equity opportunities, add more body to convey concept.

Chair Haigh stated the history of the concept is okay if different from vision.

Council member Smith the importance of values, integrating communities without disparaging, we have to name the challenges, and risk to address challenges. Regarding outcomes she suggests being bold, vibrant economy, add the word "racial". Specifically add the word affordable on page 4 regarding housing choices. On page 3 she suggests changing diverse region to "racially diverse", residence are diverse in age and race.

Council member Rummel thanked the core team for their work. She discussed the audience, mediums to use for a more direct, up front vision. She stated from that day's State of the Region to "bring a regional role". She pointed out on page 2 outcomes-visions, using history in the end as wrap-up. Indicate in document reasons, addressing state population, aging populations, and role of transit. Must be sensitive to audience, most will not read a narrative.

Council member Chávez suggested the use of video to convey message, stating the average reader's attention span is two minutes.

Council member Wulff would like the \$150M wastewater, and sewer, infrastructures, council's energy efficiencies mentioned in the report.

Chair Haigh asked the Council members to provide feedback via email and cc council members.

Council member Kramer commented how good formatting will guide the reader.

Council member Wulff asked for clarification regarding emailing edits to Beckman and including all the council members is a violation of the "open meeting law"

Chair Haigh stated public emails are okay.

Dave Theisen from the office of the General Counsel, clarified emails are okay just be careful with serial emails.

Council member Elkins suggested the information should be summarized.

2) Review and discuss outreach plans and Committee of the Whole agendas for 2012 - Ann Beckman

Ms. Beckman presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee indicating this is a draft of outreach plans, listing initial stakeholders and outcomes. She suggested presenting this information to stakeholder in three meetings. Invite stakeholders to comment, offer any additions, and extend an invitation for stakeholders to present to the committee.

Chávez suggested stakeholders to invite such as, MAC, developers, Building Associations to present a 3-10 minutes to comment on vision.

Beckman suggested directing stakeholders to provide specific feedback.

Wulff asked about stakeholders outside of the Saint Paul area.

Chair Haigh indicated the typical process of strategic planning for the next three decades.

Brimeyer wants stakeholders to respond and provide input.

Doan commented he would like information on a National perspective, hear from AMFO, ULI, are we going in parallel?

Beckman confirmed that is on an upcoming agenda.

Chávez suggested we lead presenters, offer questions from last fall.

Chair Haigh agreed, she suggested requesting input on 4-5 questions. She also asked if only key stakeholder would be invited. Any others?

Beckman stated the COW agenda for 2012 includes peer analysis from Transportation, etc. A detailed outline in September with geographic planning map, assigned regional growth integrated with Core work back into RDF. She also explained her idea to keep stakeholder updated via various advisory committees, i.e. TAB, etc. She also plans to hold information meetings 1 per county to explain plan and adopt in 2014.

Chair Haigh commented on the adoption process, the interim steps for council approvals of models, concise vision statement, interim approval points, where does that happen?

Beckman responded through the outline, approach, agreements/vote, generalized consensus, policies, and strategies. She will also explain scenarios which are a challenge.

Chair Haigh asked for an example of a scenario.

Beckman offered a land use based scenario for 3 unit/acre, 5-7 acre in developed areas, 15 unit/acre, visualize, no change in agriculture policy, based on existing policy.

Chair Haigh admitted she needs to be educated on agriculture/land use.

Vander Schaaf stated interim steps, the challenge of how to engaged general public.

Brimeyer asked if this is a different process. Is there a standard procedure?

Beckman responded there is no standard, or expectation of stakeholders, background, or credibility breach. The vision should be up front. Policies and strategies fall into place. Past statements indicate 1M new people –anti growth message. Region is more comfortable with Region examples, more desirable. We do not want to send message that sewer and water are not important. How to address housing foreclosures? If document is too short it seems not important, all system plans should look as part of the same documents. Document may require disclaimers- measurements, benchmarks.

Brimeyer stated one caveat, and gave an example of a dancing bear. When you reach out to the neighborhood and ask for feedback, most likely public will say we're wrong.

Kramer commented the need to invite stakeholders to make comments and to be more invested.

Chair Haigh agreed input is a good idea but how? People appreciate an opportunity to respond, maybe a venue such as Survey Monkey, etc.

Kramer suggested asking the public: What could the Met Council do to help your neighborhood?

Munt stated she heard a clear message in the State of Region; Where do you want to live? She suggested reaching out to people, providing scenarios to show outcomes.

Schreiber suggested continuous input even with changes in the legislative session.

Chair Haigh responded district changes are not expected until 2013.

Born added the deadline for redistricting the Council boundaries is not anticipated before 2013.

Dave Theisen from the Office of General Counsel affirmed Born's comment, stating changes are not in effect until the following year.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner, Recording Secretary