

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

4:15 PM

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

Members Absent: Adam Duininck, Edward Reynoso

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Haigh called the Committee of the Whole to order at 4:15 PM on Wednesday, August 15, 2012. (Delay due to preceding Special Metropolitan Council meeting)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Cunningham to approve the agenda and the postponement of item E. Fair Housing and Equity Assessment – Katie Hatt and members of the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment Steering Committee for the August 15, 2012 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Melander, seconded by Kramer to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2012 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Thrive MSP 2040

A. Report from the Thrive MSP 2040 Working Group – Gary Van Eyll, Chair of the Thrive Working Committee reported on the group, which consist of CM Chávez, CM Commers, CM Rummel, and CM Schreiber, their first meeting was on August 1. They have 5 items in their charge; serve region-wide as spokespersons regarding Thrive MSP 2030, meet 2/month with staff to review Thrive MSP and policy, play a leadership role in guiding this project, advise Council Chair regarding strategies, work with small groups with members of the Corridors of Opportunity board, and on policy recommendations including FHEA and transitway development. The Thrive working group serves as a conduit for Council Members and staff. Future Committee of the Whole agendas will include an update on the groups' activities.

CM Brimeyer asked if Council Members will receive talking points for the letter drafted by Leigh Homstad of Communications. CM Van Eyll confirmed they will receive talking points. Chair Haigh asked about the listening sessions and the interpretations. Will they address the challenges for the future of the region, how broad should the framework be, broad enough engage others.

B. What is the story of Thrive MSP 2040?

Research and Regional Planning manger Libby Starling presented a PowerPoint to the Committee. The presentation included agenda items B, C, and D regarding Thrive MSP 2040.

C. What is the journey and timeline to develop Thrive MSP 2040?

D. What are the ingredients that will go into Thrive MSP 2040?

~~E. Fair Housing and Equity Assessment – Katie Hatt and members of the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment Steering Committee (postponed to the September 5th Committee of the Whole meeting)~~

F. Discussion

CM Wulff suggested a side-by-side comparison of the 2030 RDF and the 2040 Thrive MSP, examine what was planned for 2030, old forecasts versus new forecasts and their impacts on decisions already made, which will provide a better understanding for future plans. CM Wulff is also concerned about the timeline and completing all the activities. Ms. Starling responded a comparison will be provided which will include the 7 county forecasts, allocations of the 7 counties forecasts geographically, and impact of decisions. Scheduled Scenario planning will also provide a better understanding of future plans and impacts.

CM Brimeyer wanted to confirm September dates of listening sessions and staff was instructed to email Council Members to confirm dates on CM's calendars.

CM Elkins asked if demographic data will be provided from staff to bring to the listening sessions.

Ms. Starling responded the data that will be available for Council Members to review and present, sub regional forecast data will not be available until 2013, but current forecasts and demographics are available.

CM Cunningham addressed the issue of workforce planning. How does Thrive MSP connect with other agencies, and policies regarding workforce. And he questioned how Thrive MSP addresses the underrepresented population, and projected increases in the population of people of color. He also commented on his concern over establishing a working group without Council approval and remaining within the bylaws and this committee's authority.

CM Melander commented on a future discussion of how to blend this process, resolving disagreements, and a method for dispute resolutions.

CM Munt remarked on the passive verbs in the policy, and is eager for the listening sessions and starting with broad conversations and then narrowing the scope. First listen, then build consensus for support.

Chair Haigh commented on the change in the Council's role since it started 45 years ago and hopes to look at incentives for re-development, and it shouldn't matter if the community is 40 years old, 60 years old, strategies to assist re-development are very important. Our goal should be to make better use of investments in communities no matter their age. Her second comment was on job forecasting, what types of jobs to attract and what types of skills we need. How does land use plans impact jobs. In addition, the new role of improved public health and its relationship to land use. What are the implications of for other services, transportation and basic services; police departments, fire departments, recreation centers?

Chair Haigh asked to be educated in the distinctions between fully developed areas and agricultural areas, and are they still the right distinctions. It could be more refined.

CM Elkins, the old distinction was inside the belt-way and outside the belt-way. Currently many fully developed communities outside the beltway.

Council Members commented on their eagerness to hear from the communities and advisory boards and the clusters of ideas. But are reminded to be flexible and adapt to changing conditions. CM Munt inquired how to submit ideas regarding Thrive MSP.

Ms. Starling suggested imputing feedback/ideas on the Thrive MSP website.

Chair Haigh asked Council Members to review the list of stakeholders/presenters and submit any omissions.

Chair Haigh reviewed the issues and concerns discussed by the Council Members regarding planning for the future and the Thrive MSP project, remarking we cannot be all things to all people.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Wenner
Recording Secretary