

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101**

**MEETING OF
LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 25, 2011**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Commers, Tami Diehm, Andy Hestness, Bob Shaffer, Jon Ulrich, Elizabeth Kautz, George Boe, George Johnson, William Neuendorf, Scott Hoke, Phillip Klein, Kristina Smitten, Elizabeth Wefel, Chip Halbach, Kim Kang

ABSENT: Amy Ihlan, Kerrin Swecker

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:07 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Shaffer motioned and it was seconded by Hoke to approve the August 25, 2011 agenda. **The motion carried.** Shaffer motioned and it was seconded by Boe to 'accept' the December 16, 2010 minutes. **The motion carried.**

INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Commers introduced himself and asked members to do so as well and give a little background on themselves as well as what brought about their interest in this committee.

BUSINESS:

Overview of LUAC Purpose and Brief Review of Bylaws

Commers gave a general overview of the purpose of LUAC and noted there will be a brief review of the LUAC Bylaws and stated he welcomes an open discussion. Commers stated that, in terms of purpose, members represent a certain district and yet the region as a whole. He stated that the two main areas of activity for LUAC are:

- Regional Land Use and Comprehensive Planning – he noted that the Council is gearing up to develop the next Regional Development Framework (Framework) and LUAC will have an opportunity to participate in the development of that document
- Metropolitan Significance

Kautz asked who defines Metropolitan Significance. Detrick responded that it is governed by statute and also Minnesota Rules. Kautz stated that the definitions would help when this group gets into those kinds of discussions. Detrick stated that if a matter of Metropolitan Significance does come before this Committee, the Committee would be fully briefed on the definitions, the statutory language, and the rules that would apply.

Detrick briefly reviewed LUAC Bylaws.

Kautz asked for more clarification on conflicts of interest. She is concerned that all of the LUAC Committee members who are elected officials are members of a municipal corporation so would then be representing that corporation. She asked if they would then have to abstain from an item that came before this Committee that involved their corporation. Detrick stated she did not believe that is the case. She noted that all members are here because they represent a variety of communities in the metro area. If a particular issue came up that concerned your specific community in a way that was not like other organizations or communities, it could be considered an issue. Detrick stated that if a member has a question on a specific issue, please ask and she will look into the matter.

Halbach asked if this group is subject to open meeting laws. Detrick stated that they do apply to this group and stated that this is a public meeting. She noted that the Chair reserves the right to close the meeting, however. Halbach asked for clarification on the definition of a violation of open meeting law, for example a quorum could not meet without having publically noticed a meeting. Detrick will come back with more clarification.

Meeting Schedules and Parking Information

Commers discussed meeting monthly (if necessary) and asked the group to hold the third Thursday of every month from 4p-6p as a placeholder in the event that this group chooses to meet monthly. He noted that in the past they have met every other month, unless subject matter warranted meeting more often.

Commers noted that going forward agendas and minutes will be posted on the Council's website as well as past minutes/agendas for reference purposes.

Dingle gave an overview of the Council's reimbursement policy for mileage and parking and also forms necessary for those requesting reimbursement. She noted that the Council does validate parking at two ramps near the Council.

Detrick asked if the Committee would prefer to meet again in October and then December vs. November and January. She noted that the next meeting will be in September. Commers discussed reasons for possibly meeting on a monthly bases vs. every other month and asked members again to 'hold' the third Thursday of every month on their calendars (from 4p-6p). He stated that as we go forward we can re-evaluate the frequency of our meetings.

Information on Previous Agenda Topics

Detrick gave information on previous agenda topics and reviewed a summary of outcomes and a description of selected topics.

Discussion of Ideas and Process for Upcoming Agenda Topics

Commers asked the group for open discussion for what priorities the Committee has identified.

Ulrich asked if there should be some presentations giving the group a knowledge base for items to be discussed as we share a role in the Framework; for example, an overview of the Transportation Policy Plan, Land Use, etc.

Kautz stated she wants to make sure that economic development issues are within the criteria of our work.

Ulrich stated that his county is looking at their policy/procedures to make sure they are as friendly, efficient, and as encouraging as possible with development. He would like to see this as a region-wide initiative. Diem asked if Ulrich is suggesting creating some type of model policies for different communities to adopt on their own. Ulrich responded this could be a possibility and suggested anything that would go to encourage development. Commers stated that the economic development issues go in so many directions. In St. Paul, for example, one of the barriers they find is handling storm water and soil remediation. In a sense soil is its own system that has economic development importance – so is storm water, and asked how we deal with these issues on a district basis or a parcel basis. Kautz stated that at this point you come up against the Federal government and regulations from Environmental Protection Agency.

Klein stated that in his district they have wetland areas and the question becomes how can we provide infrastructure to encourage growth.

Smitten stated, regarding the Framework, it would be helpful to understand the timeline of the revision and also it would be good to clarify (to help the group stay focused) what is appropriate for us to inform and what is not

appropriate. She felt identifying key pieces that relate to the Framework for discussion would help us to be efficient with our time and staff's time. Detrick stated that the agenda for Sept. 15 (although not finalized) will have plans for the Framework, with timelines that will be geared for what relates to LUAC and LUAC's role.

Smitten suggested also presenting this group with other emerging activities of the Council as they relate to regional land use.

Halbach agreed and noted that in addition to the Framework there are all sorts of land use issues related to the Corridors of Opportunity (CoO). He asked what would an appropriate role for this group be, as the Council has (as a whole), very much, a leadership role in the CoO.

Halbach also discussed the Housing Policy Plan being put together and asked what role this Committee might play in the formation of that plan.

Commers stated that the timeline for the Framework is anticipated and suggested having staff articulate that to us. Beckman stated that the Council is in the 'background' phase of Framework update. They do see LUAC as a key stakeholder that will provide input. She also discussed the Regional Sustainability Plan that will be done by the Council, to be completed by the end of 2013. Beckman discussed the forecasts that are being done by the Council currently and noted there will be a complex model and the Council will be looking for input from LUAC on this as well. She noted that there aren't any deadlines coming up and stated that the Council is meeting monthly at this time.

Kautz asked if staff is aware that the Regional Council of Mayors has the Brookings Regional Planning document. She asked if this group will be using any of that information. Beckman responded that staff is anticipating that these documents will be web-based and more visual. She noted that the Brookings studies will be key in developing this. She also discussed a peer cities evaluation that staff would like to bring to LUAC.

Commers stated that there is some tension between recognizing how much all of these issues overlap and this group's interest in retaining a real specific focus on issues where we can make a difference.

Commers asked for any other ideas that this group may have about things they'd like to see addressed by this group either in the context of the Framework or in addition to that. He asked the group to contact staff or himself if they think of additional topics.

Commers summarized what this group is looking for from staff:

- More info on Metropolitan Significance
- More detail on Conflict of Interest Policy
- Timelines of Council's work around the Framework and other related efforts.

Smitten suggested having a list of topics that the Committee will likely be informing. She suggested that after reviewing the list, members may identify if there is anything missing and this could be discussed further at the September meeting.

NEXT MEETING

September 15, 2011 at 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council in Room LLA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary