

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

**MEETING OF
LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 15, 2011**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Commers, Tami Diehm, Bob Shaffer, Elizabeth Kautz, Bill Neuendorf, Scott Hoke, Phillip Klein, Kristina Smitten, Chip Halbach, Kim Kang, David Elvig

ABSENT: Andy Hestness, Jon Ulrich, Gregory Boe, George Johnson, Kerrin Swecker, Amy Ihlan, Elizabeth Wefel

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Commers called the meeting of the Land Use Advisory Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2011.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Hoke motioned and it was seconded by Halbach to approve the September 15, 2011 agenda. **The motion carried.** Diehm motioned and it was seconded by Neuendorf to approve the August 25, 2011 minutes. **The motion carried.**

INFORMATION:

Chair Commers noted that current agendas and related items can now be found on the Council's website. He stated that staff is working on getting past agendas/minutes on as well.

BUSINESS:

Appointment of Vice Chair

As stated in the LUAC Bylaws, the Chair will appoint a Vice Chair subject to the approval of the Committee. Chair Commers stated that he is appointing Tami Diehm as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2011. It was motioned by Elvig and seconded by Klein to recommend that the Land Use Advisory Committee approve the appointment of Tami Diehm as the Committee's Vice Chair for the remainder of 2011. **The motion carried.**

Response to Questions Regarding Metro Significance, Conflicts of Interest, and Open Meeting Law – Deb Detrick

Detrick reviewed the Response to Questions (handout) that was put together in response to questions that came up at our past meeting regarding Metropolitan Significance, Conflicts of Interest, and Open Meeting Law. Answers provided in the handout are based on LUAC Bylaws, MN Statutes, MN Rules and information from the Metropolitan Council's Office of General Counsel.

Kautz asked for clarification on conflict of interest regarding land use along a transportation corridor that involves grant money that comes through TAB and the Council. Because it has a land use in a particular municipality and would therefore have an impact, she asked if that member would have to abstain. Detrick stated that it is possible. She will check further into this.

Elvig pointed out that this is an advisory committee and not making final decisions and therefore doesn't see where the committee would be in conflict. Detrick noted clear areas of conflict would revolve around Metropolitan Significance or System Statement Hearings.

Halbach asked where this committee has final decision making authority. Detrick responded that they have it with System Statement Hearings or if the Council delegates that authority to this Committee.

Shaffer stated that his rule has always been, ‘when in doubt, abstain.’

Regional Development Framework and Sustainable Development Plan Introduction and Overview – Ann Beckman

Beckman presented a PowerPoint giving an overview of what is being planned for the Regional Development Framework (Framework) and Sustainable Development Plan (Plan). She stated that the Framework, along with system plans, become the development guide.

Beckman discussed the regional planning cycle noting that the HUD Sustainability Plan that is a new element that will be going into the Plan.

Elvig asked about forecasting and how it will be done. Beckman responded that Research is putting together a specific forecast model and stated that this is to give context to how we are developing the Plan.

Commers stated that key dialogue among the Council Members now is how trend lines are evolving.

Beckman discussed what has changed since the last Plan.

Beckman discussed pressing issues in 2011 including:

- Economy and loss of jobs
- Housing foreclosures, affordability
- Transit funding, infrastructure
- Water
- Economic opportunity
- Changing demographics

Commers stated that energy is threaded through each of the 2011 issues.

Kang asked why we think transit is going to be a bigger focus. Beckman responded that this is what staff believes and it will be about transit corridors and where are we putting our light rail line.

Beckman discussed the vision and goals – part integrated into the Sustainable Development Plan and part integrated into the Regional Development Framework.

Beckman discussed the essential elements of the Sustainable Development Plan including:

- Vision and Goals
- Sustainability
- Evaluation and Implementation
- Outreach
- Roles and Responsibilities – Federal, State, Regional, Local, Non-Profit, Philanthropic, Community Groups and Business Community

Elvig asked for a definition of what sustainability is. Beckman stated that it doesn’t exist yet and noted that it is still being developed.

Kautz asked about outreach. Beckman noted that LUAC will be a big part of outreach.

Beckman discussed the Sustainable Development concepts and approach.

Beckman discussed the role of the Committee of the Whole to review existing plans and develop new vision and goals.

Beckman discussed elements of the Framework including forecasts, goals, policies, strategies, implementation and benchmarks.

Elvig asked if the Council has updated data due to changing demographics. Beckman stated that there is significant data. She noted that the key is going to be sorting it out.

Elvig asked if water will become a 'system.' Beckman stated no, the legislature deals with this; however, the Council takes it very seriously.

Beckman discussed the next steps.

Halbach asked for clarification on areas that this Committee will be discussing the most. Beckman responded forecast methodology, housing, implementation, and multimodal transportation corridors. She noted that the Committee will be giving input on broad policy directions.

Commers noted that understanding how our Framework and Sustainable Development Plan interact has been a learning curve. He suggested a road map expressing what points LUAC envisions playing a role in creating feedback to the Plan. The group agreed.

Neuendorf asked about benchmarking. Beckman stated that it was established as part of the Framework and is more evaluation and implementation.

Commers asked if there was a resource of existing plans for members to understand what is already in place and has been developed. Beckman responded that the LUPR report does this and was developed by LUAC.

Beckman discussed the Peer Cities evaluation and LUAC's participation in that.

Agenda Topics and Process – Continued Discussion

Commers asked for continued discussion on agenda topics members would like to see addressed at this Committee.

Halbach discussed the evolving and new role in economic development and asked if this Committee will be advising the Council on this and if so, how. The other topic he stated he is interested in is the Housing Plan that's being put together.

Elvig discussed a sense of urgency to get with business sectors to discuss economic development and its impacts and also creating synergy with business and housing combination.

Shaffer asked how taxes are used and how they affect growth, for example, fiscal disparities and local government aid (LGA). Detrick stated that the Department of Revenue is going to be doing a study of fiscal disparities that will look at interactions with LGA, TIF, etc. and will look at the impacts of growth and several other impacts. This may be a topic of interest, once the study is completed, for this Committee.

Commers asked if that study will look at the way in which cities have grown. Detrick stated that it will be looking at city data.

Smitten stated she would like to talk about transportation and what we know now as compared to 2004 as it related to building our infrastructure.

Halbach agreed and stated he would like to look at a model of the metropolitan planning and how to build in more resiliency as demographics change (sometimes radically). Commers agreed this is an excellent question and would like to think about how to create a system-wide approach to foster local resilience.

Elvig suggested a ‘*’ next to the element ‘sustainability.’ Neuendorf stated that biggest challenge the Met Council has is defining sustainability.

Neuendorf suggested looking at access to jobs and providing stronger linkage to jobs and housing. Commers discussed an Access to Destinations study that is being done at the Center for Transportation Studies.

Kang discussed sensitivity to affordable housing and transportation to jobs.

Elvig stated he would like to look at water aquifers and the problem/trend that water seems to be going from the north to the south and he sees it as a ‘systems’ issue.

Smitten asked what the Met Council defines as the region – just the seven county or do they include collar counties. Todd Graham, Research, talked about where their data comes from in terms of the region. Smitten asked if there is a preference to look at MSA data and asked if the Council is looking at the affects of what is going on outside the seven-county area on the region. Commers stated that there hasn’t been any dialogue at the Council level about this. Beckman stated that economic development will be the umbrella for discussion and noted that this Council is focused on setting priorities. She noted that she is looking forward to hearing the Council’s Vision.

Commers gave an update stating that the Council is having three retreats to get together to develop a shared vision.

Halbach asked how the Council grapples with competing political philosophies out there, mapping out where the region should grow. Commers stated, not speaking for the entire Council, but his view is that there is a clear business case for regional planning, transit operations, wastewater, and other systems that we are involved in.

NEXT MEETING

November 17, 2011 - 4:00pm at the Metropolitan Council in Room LLA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Dingle, Executive Secretary