



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 7.0

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board

**From:** Erin Aleman, Senior Planner

**Date:** April 12, 2011

**Re:** Citizen's Advisory Committee

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At the January 12, 2011 meeting, staff outlined proposed changes to the CMAP committee structure. It was recommended that staff modify the mission of the CAC from a focus on policy development to now assisting in the implementation of GO TO 2040. The role of the new CAC will be to offer advice and assist as local advocates for CMAP and GO TO 2040.

Over the past two months, with your help, we have identified and interviewed numerous CAC candidates and are ultimately recommending the following representatives be confirmed as members of the CAC. The first meeting of the CAC will be held in May 2011.

### **Citizens' Advisory Committee Nominees**

#### *City of Chicago – Wendy Walker Williams*

Ms. Williams is the Executive Director of the Southeast Chicago Commission. The SCC works in collaboration with the University of Chicago to help the communities of Hyde Park-South Kenwood, North Kenwood-Oakland, Woodlawn, and Washington Park become sustainable and livable. Ms. Williams is an experienced city planner who has worked on economic development projects throughout the City of Chicago. Formerly, she worked as assistant commissioner in the Chicago Department of Community Development and as deputy director for Gallery 37.

#### *City of Chicago – David Thigpen*

Mr. Thigpen is a member of Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel's transition committee and serves in the Economic Development and Planning division. Previously, Mr. Thigpen was the Vice President for Policy and Research at the Chicago Urban League. Mr. Thigpen is the principal author of the League's 2008 economic "Futures" study.

#### *City of Chicago – Kimberly Bares*

Ms. Bares is the Executive Director of the Rogers Park Business Alliance - a community and economic development organization serving the north-side community of Rogers Park. Ms.

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Bares has 19 years' experience working in non-profit organizations and has served as Executive Director of four organizations in Chicago, Berwyn and Baltimore. She has had an extensive experience in community outreach and community-wide planning through past collaborations with Loyola University Chicago, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, University of Illinois Chicago, and Northwestern University.

*City of Chicago – Saul Guzman*

Mr. Guzman is the Vice President of Business Development for the Resurrection Project -- a community based organization in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Prior to that, Mr. Guzman spent over 12 years in cross-functional positions within global Engineering, Finance, Marketing, Treasury and Operations settings. He serves on the board of directors for the University of Chicago Public Interest Program. Mr. Guzman received his MBA from the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, and holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois.

*City of Chicago – Valerie F. Leonard*

Ms. Leonard is a community development consultant who works to strengthen the capacity of organizations through technical assistance, specialized workshops, resource and organizational development and project management. Ms. Leonard has considerable experience in the public, private and not-for profit sectors. Currently, Ms. Leonard consults the Chi-West ResourceNet, sponsored by the University of Illinois at Chicago in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust. In this capacity, she services a cohort of community-based agencies within the University's service area, assisting with the development and implementation of comprehensive capacity building plans. Ms. Leonard is a resident journalist, and writes for the North Lawndale News.

*Suburban Cook – Martin Eagen*

Mr. Eagen is a long-time resident of the Village of Elmwood Park. He is involved in his son's middle school PTA, is an advocate of youth development as a soccer coach and is involved with the Boys Scouts. He previously served as President of the School Board District 401.

*Southwest Cook – Stephanie Presseller*

Ms. Presseller is the Sustainability Manager at Moraine Valley Community College. Over the past two years Stephanie has shared opportunities through workshops and classes that help businesses develop green methods, guide homeowners to make positive lifestyle changes, and teach citizens how to make conscious green decisions that will help sustain the earth. Stephanie is also an active member of the Illinois chapter of the U.S. Green Builders Council, an organization committed to lead the regional transformation of the built environment to be more ecologically sustainable, profitable and healthy through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

*South Cook – Jennifer Artis*

Ms. Artis is the Director of Public Affairs for St. James Hospital and works directly with over 30 communities looking at education, economic development, and other hospitals to address local

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community needs. Ms. Artis is a Trustee of the Village of Richton Park, Foundation Director for Prairie State College, serves as the President for the Board of Directors of Southland Health Care Forum, Board Member President of Crossroads Coalition, and serves in the Health Committee for the Southland Community Council.

*West Cook* – **Thomas Jacobs**

Mr. Jacobs is an Associate Principal with Krueck and Sexton Architects in Chicago. He is also the founder of the Riverside Sustainability Council and an Adjunct Professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Mr. Jacobs also writes a monthly column for the Riverside Landmark on sustainability.

*Northwest Cook* – **Ken Nelson**

Mr. Nelson serves as the Mayor of Rolling Meadows. Mr. Nelson brings a wealth of experience from the private and public sectors, which include more than 30 years in the broadcast industry and corporate communications. Prior to serving as Mayor, he was appointed to the Plan Commission and later elected as alderman representing the First Ward. He currently serves on the Northwest Municipal Conference Sensible Growth Committee and is a member of the Advisory Committee to the William Rainey Harper Journalism Department.

*DuPage County* – **Vacant**

At this time, staff is still in talks with potential candidates.

*Kane County* – **Lulu Blacksmith**

Ms. Blacksmith is the Director of Governmental and Multicultural Affairs at Waubensee Community College. She is also the founder and now board chair of Compañeros en Salud (Partners in Health), a grassroots coalition charged with assisting members of the community in accessing appropriate healthcare and social services in the Fox Valley area.

*Kendall* – **Vacant**

At this time, staff is still in talks with potential candidates.

*Lake County* – **Faye Sinnott**

Ms. Sinnott is the founder of Solution Navigators, Inc, a company that helps engage businesses and not-for-profits on the advantages of sustainability. She has worked with organizations of all sizes, from early start-ups to Fortune 100 companies. Her experience also includes government and not-for-profit management and civic engagement, and she remains active in the social responsibility sector.

*McHenry County* – **Kevin Ivers**

Mr. Ivers has worked developing and implementing programs focused on community and organizational development. He is a Trustee of the McHenry County Conservation District and is also the Board President of Imagine McHenry County, a broad-based coalition to establish, promote, and maintain an ongoing grass roots process of planning for McHenry County.

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*Will County* – **John Knoelk**

Mr. Knoelk is a professional home builder who has worked across the CMAP region. Presently, he lives and works in the Fairmont Community located in Lockport Township, Will County. He has been active in helping to bring resources to this underserved community.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval

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