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Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes **March 24– 9:00am** **DuPage County Conference Room**

Members Present: Chris Aiston, Tracey Bosman, Consuella Brown, Lori Clark, Grant Davis, JoAnn Eckmann, Thomas Gary, Robert Gleeson, John Greuling, Rand Haas, Robin Kelly, Judith Kossy, Harry Pestine, John Schneider, Ed Sitar

Members Absent: Bill Browne, Cindy McSherry, Charles Perkins, Angie Powell, Sean McCarthy, Mike Scholefield, David Young

Staff Present: Shana Alford, Annie Byrne, Tara Fifer, Kristen Heery, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reise, Kermit Wies

Others Present: Mark O'Donnell, Paul Heltne, Gary Skoog

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

2.0 Welcome and Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lori Clark and seconded by Rand Haas.

4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Item 7.2 and 7.3 were moved before the discussion on DRI's. Item 7.4 will be discussed at a later time.

5.0 Staff Report

No staff report this month.

6.0 GOTO 2040 Update

6.1 The Chicago Jobs Council (CJC), on contract with the Chicago Community Trust gave a presentation on a Workforce Development Strategy report that highlighted regional trends in the labor market and workforce programs. Two major goals were identified in the report: 1) the need for coordinated planning and information systems

across the region for workforce, education and economic development so workers, businesses, and front-line staff have access to a transparent information system that is connected and available to all. 2) the need to develop strategic activities that will result in adaptive workforce education and training delivery system that will focus on the least-skilled and lowest income, be responsive to worker's needs, and leverage public and private sector resources to keep pace with the changes.

Committee members stressed that there is a strong link between economic development and workforce development and recommended that the report emphasize this. John Schneider added that when workforce agencies are integrated into Economic Development Offices workforce boards can better understand what skills and abilities are needed by business in the region. Bob Gleeson agreed and said that a workforce report should include an analysis of how workforce boards connect higher education like community colleges with the employment base. Once again, committee members recommended that CJC involve economic development professionals when revising future drafts of the report. In conclusion the committee asked CMAP staff to explain how reports such as these that are generated by external agencies fold into the planning process, and how working committees such as ECD integrate into the process; they also wanted clarity on what the final expectations of this report were to be.

6.2. A second report on Education that was being jointly prepared by an education committee on contract with the Chicago Community Trust gave a presentation on the existing conditions of the educational system in the region. It gave a brief outline of the key issues, goals and strategies for the educational system in the region from ages 0 to 5, and grades K through 12, higher education and P-20.

Robin Kelly asked if the report discusses how education is funded in the region. Thomas Gary asked if the report looks at school districts and suggested the report look at alternative strategies across the nation. The education representatives responded that funding as an issue was identified in the 0 to 5 programs. ED committee members recommended that funding should be considered across all the educational levels. Chris Aiston asked if the report addresses the effects of teacher union contracts in the educational system, in response staff said it currently does not, but that they will look into the issue. Bob Gleeson recommended an economic development component highlighting that it is important for higher education to be producing students with skills that regional businesses require should be part of the report. Staff responded that the report on k-12 addresses that issue by focusing on skill gaps and test scores. The committee thanked them for the report and asked for future updates as work progresses.

7.0 Chairman Report

John Greuling began the session by asking if the decision tiers proposed in the first draft still apply. Staff responded that they could still be used. The committee was concerned that the thresholds identified in the process were high and that very few developments would be considered for a DRI. They asked for examples of developments that could

potentially meet the current thresholds as outlined in the process. Staff mentioned that developments such as Dell Webb Residential Communities, regional malls similar to Woodfield, or major airport developments would qualify. Bob Gleeson stressed the importance to have thresholds as a trigger so as to have a flow of analysis and a sense of transparency.

The committee summarized their feedback and recommendations as follows: 1) the DRI process has gone from a qualitative analysis to using quantitative thresholds (2) if a project meets one of the thresholds it should automatically qualify as a DRI. 3) a series of questions should be added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) portion, they are Why do we have a DRI process? What are the benefits of going through the DRI process?

The committee's feedback will be presented to the programming committee in April.

8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee will be held on **Tuesday April 28, 2009 at 9:00am** in the CMAP offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher
Staff Liaison

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