



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.chicagoareaplanning.org

Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes November 27, 2007 – 9.00am Dupage County Conference Room

Members Present: Joe Balasa, Yasmine Bates, Gideon Blustein, Consuella Brown, Lori Clark, Thomas Gary, Robert Gleeson, Reggie Greenwood, John Greuling, Judith Kossy, Sean McCarthy, Cindy McSherry, Harry Pestine, Angie Powell, Mike Scholefield, Kim Uhlig, Tom Zapler.

Members Absent: Andre Ashmore, George Billows, Bill Browne, Robin Kelly, Lila Petit.

Staff Present: Randy Blankenhorn, Jill Leary, Bob Dean, Lindsay Banks, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reis, Andrew Williams Clark, Lee Deuben, William Kiley, Shana Alford

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

The minutes were approved by Lori Clark and seconded by Kim Uhlig.

4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

John Greuling emphasized the need for the committee to focus on providing input into the visioning development and any related reports that are beneficial to the regional planning process. The Chair thanked committee members for their attendance and assured them that their input to the planning process was important. He further went on to say that he would work with CMAP staff to create a work plan on behalf of the committee for 2008.

5.0 Staff Report

Staff informed the committee of a seminar that would be held in Will County jointly coordinated by DCEO and Will County. The seminar is designed to provide an

overview of the “tools” that are available through CMAP. Committee members expressed their support in such efforts and encouraged staff to do more of these around the region. Harry Pestine offered to help promote seminars and summits through the Federal Reserve Bank newsletter.

Staff also informed members that the economic impact analysis software was now available and offered to give a brief presentation at the next committee meeting. John Greuling offered to provide some examples from recent developments in his county to assist in giving a detailed overview of what the system can do. He also said that this modeling tool will help guide decisions on developments throughout the region and could be used to review developments of regional importance.

6.0 Snapshot report: Infill

Lindsay Banks gave an overview of the draft snapshot report on infill development, the methodology and its findings. The initial report focuses on Cook County with expectation to expand the report to the other counties when data becomes available. The research used tax assessor data in Cook County to identify vacant and quantitative analysis to identify underutilized land. The report has two objectives, to construct a clear and concise definition of what constitutes urban infill and how to prioritize parcels for infill development as well as use current and future research to calculate the approximate number of households and jobs that can be accommodated with infill development by 2040.

A discussion ensued about the methodology used for the development of snapshot reports and what the future direction of these reports would be. Robert Gleeson considered the project to be off on a good start but wanted to know what its final objective might be. John Greuling went on further to ask if any statements and decisions would be made regarding infill development and the impact on zoning or other economic development issues. Harry Pestine and Yasmine Bates both asked what future uses would the report be used for and asked if a market analysis would be initiated. They both indicated that this would be a useful tool for developers and contractors. Joe Balasa agreed that the idea of snapshots is good sets baseline that will enable CMAP to take a strong leadership position to direct research and bring people to the table. Staff commented that the work on these reports has enabled them to work together with municipalities and as the agency builds its capacity and encourages more regional participation CMAP will be able to work more proactively with development agencies and other stakeholders to collect data needed.

7.0 Regional Plan

Bob Dean went over the changes made to the draft Regional Vision Statements at the previous committee meeting. Committee members were asked to comment on the changes.

Harry Pestine was glad to see the statements expanded the scope to include the region. Judith Kossy noticed that there was no mention of business in the introductory paragraph and suggested the words be changed to say "the region will be a magnet for attracting new, diverse residents and businesses from all over the world." John Greuling expressed the need to stress the region's global status especially as it relates to economic competitiveness.

Comments and suggestions were offered on other sections of the vision. Harry Pestine suggested under Public Health and Safety that the sentence should read: "make communities safe" rather than just making them "safer". Consuella Brown mentioned that the last bullet under Coordinated Planning and Government regarding intergovernmental cooperation needs to be a top priority for the region and the plan.

Bob Dean thanked the committee for their comments. All these would be incorporated into the vision statements and updates will be given at the January meeting. Bob Dean gave a brief introduction about the next stage of the planning process, namely developing indicators. He presented members with a sample from the Boston Indicators Project (www.bostonindicators.org) and informed members that the next stage committee members will be asked for their input on identifying indicators that specifically relate to the Northeastern Illinois.

8.0 Other Business

The Chair asked committee members whether they would like to have a meeting in December. All agreed that the December meeting should be cancelled as a lot of people were unavailable due to the holidays. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in January 2008.

Joe Balasa made a motion to discuss the frequency of committee meets, His concern was that meeting every month was too demanding and recommended whether it would be more productive to meet every other month or once a quarter. Randy Blankenhorn stressed that at this juncture it was important that the committee meet every month to provide input on the Vision Statements and indicator development. It was then agreed that the committee would consider this motion meeting when the Committee's work on the comprehensive plan had been completed.

9.0 Public Comment

Ed Paesel, commented on the use of indicators for the comprehensive plan, and stressed the need to not only compare the region within the U.S. but to compare the region with other international cities.

10.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee will be held on Tuesday January 22nd, 2008 at 9:00am in the CMAP offices.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher
Staff Liaison

01-07 -08