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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

DRAFT

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2020

Hosted virtually via GoToMeeting

Members Present: Jason Keller (interim chair, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), Lisa Castillo Richmond (Partnership for College Completion), Mari Castaldi (Chicago Jobs Council), Kevin Considine (Lake County Partners), Peter Creticos (Institute for Work and the Economy), Kristi DeLaurentiis (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association), Xochitl Flores (Cook County Bureau for Economic Development), Jonathan Furr (NIU Education Systems Center), Bryan Gay (Invest Aurora), Emily Harris (Harris Strategies), Michael Horsting (Regional Transportation Authority), Kevin Kramer (Village of Hoffman Estates), Marisa Lewis (Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership), Kathleen Nelson (Cushman & Wakefield), Kelly O'Brien (Alliance for Regional Development), Henry Pierce (ComEd), Lance Pressl (Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship), Doug Pryor (Will County Center for Economic Development), Jennifer Tammen (Ernst & Young)

Staff Present: Teri Dixon, Austen Edwards, Jesse Elam, Tina Fassett Smith, Briana Gipson, Caitlin Goodspeed, Lindsay Hollander, Quinn Kasal, Catherine Kemp, Timi Koyejo, Stephanie Levine, Tony Manno, Lily Neppl, Diana Martinez, Amy McEwan, Tim McMahon, Gordon Smith, Matt Stern, Simone Weil, Beatrix Yan

Others Present: Garland Armstrong (Access Living and Pace ADA Advisory), Heather Armstrong (Access Living and Pace ADA Advisory)

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by interim chair Jason Keller.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

CMAP's Austen Edwards noted the new virtual format and protocol, which this committee is using the first time. He stressed the importance of the committee's discourse in addressing the economic fallout from the global pandemic and renewed calls for racial equity. In a reflection of these priorities, the format of the meeting was to heavily focus on committee member updates

3.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, from January 27, 2020, were approved as presented.

4.0 Committee member updates

Staff posed four questions to open a discussion for committee members to share recent experiences, challenges, and emerging best practices related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and efforts to contain it – as well as renewed calls for racial justice and equity. Discussion was structured around the following questions:

- What are your stakeholders' most immediate needs or highest concerns during this time?
- How is your organization adjusting its strategies and community outreach to better serve marginalized communities? What barriers and/or best practices have you come across?
- What general trends and issues will you be monitoring closely in the coming weeks?
- How can CMAP and the committee best support your efforts?

Mari Castaldi from the Chicago Jobs Council spoke about the major challenges facing the workforce, including both layoffs and dangerous workplace conditions for many.

Lisa Castillo Richmond from the Partnership for College Completion talked about gathering information on what colleges across the region and country are doing to help students make informed decisions. Four-year colleges particularly are under pressure to welcome students in person to maintain revenue. Institutional equity plans — developed at 25 colleges and universities as part of the Illinois Equity in Attainment initiative — are to go public in July.

Kevin Considine from Lake County Partners was managing the short-term needs of pandemic-related communication and longer-run typical business attraction and relocation efforts, which continue to be very important early in the pandemic. He spoke of the Lake County Small Business Recovery Grant Program, which he hoped would be able to keep many small businesses afloat with funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Kristi DeLaurentiis from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association mentioned her organization's focus on the lack of tax revenue many municipalities are facing, especially those without have a rainy-day fund. They are also monitoring the Cook County Assessor's COVID-19 adjustment to residential and commercial property assessments as well as its net impact on local property tax revenues.

Marisa Lewis from the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership cited new data allowing them to track changes in continued unemployment claims week-to-week. This new data allows them to get a much more real-time, accurate picture of the current workforce challenges and recovery process. They are also monitoring job listings data.

Jonathan Furr with the NIU Education Systems Center has been working with public schools at many levels to ensure that career pathway programs can continue undeterred, especially as job placement services have not been able to continue in person. He emphasized that digital literacy programs remain a high priority given the urgent need in the pandemic education landscape.

Bryan Gay from Invest Aurora was interested in any data on changing labor market demand and demographics of the workforce, especially as they try to strategize to offset layoffs. They surveyed over 500 businesses on their greatest needs during COVID-19.

Emily Harris of Harris Strategies spoke of how COVID-19 has further exposed structural ableism rooted in society. Examples include discussions surrounding prioritizing resources towards the non-sick or even taking away ventilators from those already sick. Going forward, accessibility practices must be kept in mind even if many continue to work at home. Emily also commended CMAP's data for playing a crucial role in analysis during these times.

Michael Horsting from the Regional Transportation Authority spoke of the challenge in meeting mobility needs, safety protocols, and a budget crunch from decreased fare and sales tax revenues. The agency is utilizing ridership dashboards to monitor crowding and align service levels appropriately.

Kevin Kramer of Hoffman Estates noted a record high in municipal permit revenues, a sign of increased investment in residential property. He also touted the Bell Works 'metroburbs' commercial redevelopment project at the former AT&T headquarters along I-90, which is slated to open shortly, as a positive sign for Hoffman Estates.

Kathleen Nelson from Cushman & Wakefield spoke of how the company used lessons quickly learned in China, where it manages significant property, early in the COVID-19 outbreak to inform adjustments made in the Chicago region and the U.S. as a whole.

Doug Pryor from the Will County Center for Economic Development noted that he continued to see heavy interest in warehouse and distribution space to support supply chain growth, as well as significant industrial and chemical manufacturing activity. They have scheduled a weekly call with municipal economic and community development teams, which has helped all stay on the same page.

Kelly O'Brien from the Alliance for Regional Development and the Chicago Central Area Committee pitched webinars that she has been hosting with regional decisionmakers. Also, the 7th Annual Summit for Regional Competitiveness has been moved online and is scheduled for November 16-20, 2020, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Kelly asked committee members to share any topic ideas or suggestions they may have for future webinars.

Xochitl Flores from Cook County Bureau of Economic Development spoke about the county's Community Recovery Initiative, specifically working with partners on equitable distribution of CARES Act funding as well as other financial relief and critical support services to suburban areas. This effort has included assessing disparities in community impacts and opportunities to utilize funding in different ways to best meet these needs.

Henry Pierce from ComEd shared details on an effort to support the utility's customers, including late fee relief, donations, delaying suspension and disconnections, flexible payment arrangements, and more that can be found on their website. They also developed and ran an equitable economic recovery bootcamp with Cook County.

5.0 Impact of the pandemic on municipal revenues (tabled)

CMAP staff was to present new analysis on the impact of the pandemic on municipal finance. The presentation and staff contact information were shared with members after the meeting.

6.0 COVID-19 Regional Recovery Survey (tabled)

CMAP, in partnership with the City of Chicago's Economic Recovery Taskforce, Cook County, DuPage County, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, conducted a survey of the region's municipalities on their needs, concerns, and anticipated COVID-19 impacts and expenditures. The presentation and contact information were shared with members after the meeting.

7.0 Other Business

No other business was presented.

8.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong spoke of the continued need for increased resources for and public outreach to people with disabilities.

9.0 Next Meeting

The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, October 26, 2020 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

10.0 Adjournment

At 11:19 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Austen Edwards, Staff Liaison