



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes**

June 26, 2007

Lake County Room

### **Members Present:**

Lori Clark- NIU, Yasmin Bates-Harris Bank, Joe Balasa-Chicagoland Chamber, Mike Scholfield - Metro Mayors Caucus, Harry Pestine-Federal Reserve Bank, Erik Nickerson- Illinois State Treasurers Office, George Billows- Illinois Trucking Assn, Lila Petitt - Seaway National Bank, John Grueling, Terri Clark-U of C, Dr Robert Gleeson- NIU, Gideon Blustein- Office of Melissa Bean, member of Congress, Angie Powell- CAC representative.

### **Staff Present:**

Bola Delano, Bill Kiley, Brian Rademacher, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Annie Bryne

### **Absent:**

Andre Ashmore, Mike Colky, Kim Uhlig, Sean McCarthy, Jack Price, Robin Kelly, and Bill Browne.

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 am.

### **2.0 Welcome and Introductions**

All attendees introduced themselves.

### **3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements.**

John Grueling was running late so George Billows agreed to Chair the meeting till John Grueling arrived.

The committee was asked if Item 6 of the agenda Regional Comprehensive plan be moved up to be the first item for discussion. This would entail a short discussion on developing the economic development themes and goals and a short presentation be given by Jesse Elam on work currently being undertaken to prepare for a series of reports on specific topics. The topic for this session was Sustainability. The other item was to agree to the major themes and related goals that were previously circulated. Both these items were moved up on the agenda.

All agreed.

#### **4.0 Approval of minutes**

Harry Pestine recommended that the minutes be amended to reflect the following: Most members were disappointed *but certainly understood why* the Chair, John Grueling, was not in attendance.....

All agreed.

Motion made by Michael Scholfield and seconded by Yasmin Bates.

#### **5.0. Regional Comprehensive Plan Sustainability Report**

Jesse Elam gave a brief presentation on what is sustainability highlighting the different definitions for now and in the future. He linked this with how this sets the scene for setting goals and how the theme as a whole is interwoven into current issues. He emphasized the importance of measuring outcomes and developing indicators that will assist in this effort and concluded by asking the committee to give a feed back on the definition, identification of cross cutting issues and their views on evaluation measures or indicators to measure sustainability.

Harry Pestine started off the discussion by questioning the definition and suggested that the issue of well being should be included, he went on further say that equity /accessibility should be a key part of the outcomes defined. Bob Gleeson went on further to say that an accurate portrayal of the term sustainability is nebulous and consequently a better strategy for CMAP would be for it to define specific parameters of what sustainability is. Yasmin Bates mentioned that an additional issue to consider is what is the “Why” question as it relates to sustainability and suggested that the subject needs more clarity on how it intercedes with regional issues.

In conclusion the group commended the efforts of the snapshot proposal as it would also set a benchmark for the quality of life indicators that were previously discussed but recommended that staff to come up with specific deliverables and resources available.

**Action:** Staff will give a brief update at the next meeting

### **Vision Development Process**

Bob Dean circulated a table of goals and major themes designed to develop the regional vision process which was in response to what the committee requested at the last meeting. The report had been condensed into five categories and Bob Dean was reporting back to ask for additional comments or amendments. He informed members that a visioning event is scheduled to be held on September 12, 2007 and urged members to plan to attend. (Details of this event will be sent out shortly).

Teri Clark suggested that the related goals should be defined as Quality of Life indicators, Workforce Development should include education and Inward Development should be changed to Inward Investment.

A motion was made to approve these amendments by Harry Pestine and seconded by Bob Gleeson.

A discussion then followed with John Grueling referring to the Quality of Life proposal as a very ambitious project and asked committee members to consider this in detail. He then asked some probing questions such as: What are the core elements of economic and community development that need to be part of the planning process? Where and what are the engines of wealth? Where are they and how are they changing? How are we working this wealth to increase the quality of life? and finally what are the indices in transportation modeling and how do they affect the economy, identify choke points etc. He suggested that the group be aware that we do not need to invest in new stuff but that we can repackage, refocus on some of the critical factors mentioned above.

These comments generated a discussion that went into more depth about the roles, mission, and what duties are expected from the group. The issue of Quality of Life indicators also triggered off some concern which resulted in the group reviving previous discussions on what was expected from the group. In addition they felt that all the work currently been done was in isolation of other committee work in CMAP and wanted clarification of where and what the links were. Bob Dean and Bola Delano assured them that this was not the case and Bob Dean was asked to provide a report showing what the links are with other committees. Joe Balasa went on further to question whether there really was a need for the committee and if there was not then we need not go any further. At this point Bola Delano reminded members that all activities to date had been agreed and developed by members and previous minutes reflect this. She stressed the importance of ensuring that economic and community development issues be included in the planning process and that it would be a shame if the group concedes defeat.

**Action:** Staff were asked to give an overview of how the roles of the committee feed in to the whole planning process. Bob Dean will supply a brief overview and this would be included in the next meeting package.

In conclusion the group agreed to set up two sub committees; the first of which would be to develop goals that address the community and economic development efforts and to meet with other committee chairs to share best practice. Chair- John Grueling.

Second sub-committee would look at the quality of life indicators and on behalf of the group coordinate efforts to address the groups concerns, themes and values- Chair – Terri Clark.

**Action:** Both groups were asked to report at the next meeting.

**6.0. Public Comment**

Gideon Blustein commended the group on its efforts and said this new process will add value to the process, Angie Powell reminded members that they were on this committee to provide their expertise and the group should not lose that focus.

**7.0 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 9.00a.m in the CMAP office, DuPage County Conference Room.

Apologies for non-attendance were immediately made by Yasmin Bates and Harry Pestine.

**8.0 Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bola Delano**

Staff Liaison