

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

June 17, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski
Sue Errickson
Earle Monroe
Lamont Aheart
Bradley Pellissier
Michael Carragher
Andy Kidd
Jerry Stanton
Patrick Kennedy

Town

Hartford
Tolland
Wethersfield
Vernon
Somers
Newington
Manchester
Farmington
South Windsor

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Emily Moos
Don Chapman
Roger O'Brien

CRCOG
CRCOG
City of Hartford
City of Hartford

Having reached a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Adoption of Minutes: April 15, 2010

A motion was made by Errickson and seconded by Aheart to adopt the minutes April 15, 2010. Abstentions were made by Carragher, Kidd and Stanton. The motion passed.

Presentation on CRCOG's One City, One Plan – Hartford's Newly Adopted Plan of Conservation and Development

Roger O'Brien, Director of Planning for the City of Hartford presented on the city's newly adopted Plan of Conservation and Development, One City, One Plan. Dr. O'Brien explained the main sections of the plan, which include sections on downtown development and greening Hartford through sustainable development. Dr. O'Brien's presentation placed an emphasis on the public process throughout the plan which involved neighborhood meetings with Hartford's Neighborhood Revitalization Zones as well as special subject area meetings that consistently drew about one hundred or more attendees. Sandra Bobowski, Chair of the Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission and Regional Planning Commission Chair commended the city on its efforts in developing this plan and especially on its ability to engage the public in the planning process.

Discussion of Recommendation to Amend the CRCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development to Incorporate EPA/CRCOG Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development

Mary Ellen Kowalewski presented CRCOG's idea for incorporating the Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development as an addendum to the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Ms. Kowalewski stated that the Guidelines have been used frequently when CRCOG makes comments on regular zoning, subdivision and plan of conservation and development referrals and adopting them as part of the Regional Plan would allow more opportunity to encourage towns to incorporate sustainable design and development principles in their plans and regulations. Sandra Bobowski asked for comments from each member of the Commission present at the meeting. A motion was made by Sue Errickson and seconded by Bradley Pellisier to endorse CRCOG moving forward with a public hearing process on potential adoption of the Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development into the CRCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Emily Moos gave a report on the zoning and subdivision referrals. A motion was made by Patrick Kennedy and seconded by Sue Errickson to endorse the referrals as they were reported. An abstention was made by Carrigan. The motion was carried.

Update on CRCOG's Sustainable Communities Activities

Mary Ellen Kowalewski offered a brief update on CRCOG's Sustainable Communities Activities noting that CRCOG recently received a grant from CL&P and Northeast Utilities to develop a social media strategy for Sustainable Capitol Region. Ms. Kowalewski also noted that CRCOG plans to hold a Roundtable on Sustainability and the Common Good for local foundations and corporate partners in the Capitol Region in an effort to seek input on what the funding community has been investing in with regard to sustainability.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.