

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

October 21, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski
Sue Errickson
Earle Monroe
Lamont Aheart
Patrick Kennedy
Thomas Manning
Mark S. Drake
John Larensen
Karl Robert Profe
Bruce Mortimer
Horace Brown

Town

Hartford
Tolland
Wethersfield
Vernon
South Windsor
Bolton
Simsbury
Marlborough
Windsor
Canton
Manchester

Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Emily Moos	CRCOG
Mary Ann Nusom Haverstock	CT DEP

Having reached a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Adoption of Minutes: June 17, 2010

A motion was made by Errickson and seconded by Aheart to adopt the minutes of the June 17, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Proposed Schedule to Consider Amendment of the CRCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development to Incorporate EPA/CRCOG Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development

Mary Ellen Kowalewski outlined the procedures and timeline that would need to be followed in order to begin a public hearing process on incorporating the *Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development* into the CRCOG Regional Plan. She noted that should the Commission approve moving forward with the public process, it would likely come to a vote at the February or March meeting. Ms. Kowalewski stated that she had had one request from the commission to receive a hard copy of the Guidelines and asked whether anyone else would like to receive one. Ms. Kowalewski also mentioned that the Guidelines are available on the CRCOG website at www.crcog.org. Sue Errickson suggested that should the Guidelines be adopted into the plan, that CRCOG send out copies of the plan and the Guidelines to all municipalities.

Sue Errickson moved to have CRCOG staff proceed with the proposed schedule to get the Smart Growth Guidelines adopted as a part of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The motion was seconded by Karl Profe. The motion passed unanimously.

Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals

Mary Ellen Kowalewski stated that there were no referrals to be reviewed and voted on at this meeting. She stated that on the date of this meeting, CRCOG did receive a comprehensive zoning regulation and map update referral and that that review will be presented to the Commission during the next reporting and review period.

Report on HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Award to Hartford/Springfield/New Britain Region

Mary Ellen Kowalewski briefed the Commission on CRCOG's recent award of a \$4.2 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Kowalewski outlined the main purpose and activities of the grant stating that the overarching concept is to create a Sustainable Knowledge Corridor that encompasses both the Hartford and Springfield regions. She noted specific projects of the grant proposal including two "catalytic projects," that would receive funding, one in the City of Hartford to create a master planned design district in the Hartford North Park area. The second project is in the City of New Britain relating to creating a walkable, mixed use downtown area linking downtown to the New Britain-Hartford Busway in a pedestrian friendly manner. The grant will provide funding for these and several other projects over the course of three years.

Presentation on new DEP Resources to Assist Municipalities on Implementing Low Impact Development Techniques

Mary Ann Nusom Haverstock of DEP's Watershed Management program presented on the range of resources that the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has to assist municipalities in implementing low impact development (LID) techniques. Ms. Haverstock circulated copies of DEP's resource CD on LID stating that this electronic resource includes photos, presentations and other informational materials to educate municipalities and the public on how to incorporate LID into their plans and regulations. Ms. Haverstock mentioned several specific projects that are taking place in Connecticut including the Green Capitols Project which is an effort to create green infrastructure demonstration projects at the State Capitol building; a Municipal Land Use Evaluation involving 10 towns in the Farmington Valley Watershed to review land use regulations for barriers to incorporating LID techniques; and an ARRA grant fund dedicated to helping the state incorporate LID into its permitting process.

Sandra Bobowski inquired about best practices for managing runoff with plantings in Elizabeth Park. Ms. Haverstock mentioned that the DEP is soon to come out with a brochure addressing similar issues and that this is typically the type of question that they would refer to the UCONN master gardeners.

Sue Errickson inquired as to whether DEP has resources or recommendations for residential property owners to take care of conservation areas which might be located on their properties. She stated that Tolland had come up with such guidance documents after experiencing similar issues in town. Ms. Haverstock stated that the DEP has not produced specific brochures on this topic, but would be happy to look into providing guidance and also share models developed by municipalities.

Horace Brown inquired about the status of the DEP's Storm Drain Stenciling program. Ms. Haverstock stated that this program had been started with funding from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund with the understanding that after a certain period of time, other funding would need to be obtained to

continue the project. She stated that unfortunately the Stenciling is no longer a formally funded program.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.