

MINUTES
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

555 N. Wabasha Street

4th Floor Boardroom

St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Larry Baker, Linda Ewen, Kevin Goodno, Scott Halstead, Scott McMahon, Andrea Perzichilli, Scott McMahon, Donna Zimmerman

Staff present: Bob DeBoer, Annie Levenson-Falk

Outcomes:

- Keep members informed and involved in ongoing policy work.

1. Introductions

2. Review and approve agenda and outcomes

- Added outcome: help think about organizations or individuals that would be helpful for us to meet with in planning the regional policy conference.

Note: some versions of the agenda listed the wrong time for the 8/12/08 meeting. This meeting will be 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

3. Updates

Regional Policy Conference

- Conference will be in September, tentatively Sept. 23, day-long at the Landscape Arboretum. Might get attendance of 300-400
- McKnight Foundation has done this conference annually for several years. Previously has been organized by Met Council; this year McKnight approached the Citizens League to take it on. In previous years, we had no involvement in planning this conference.
- Purpose is to start discussions that take people out of a limited view of the metro region, to think about what we really need to do to address what happens regionally – not always centered on the Met Council.
 - Met Council understands that they're limited in how far discussions can go when they lead them, and that the Citizens League may be able to take these discussions further
- We are organizing it in line with our mission – this won't be about just a one-day event; we want to get a actionable agreements to move forward on with participants after the event, which can become a workplan for these organizations between this year's event and the

- next. May be an ambitious goal, but hopefully pre-work we're doing now will make it possible. Staff is meeting with many organizations to set this up ahead of time – a big focus of Bob's time in coming months.
- Workshop structure is still in development – what's on the handout are ideas that have been suggested
 - Themes come in part from the University Metropolitan Consortium – idea is to get away from policy “silos,” though we're not sure these themes are the right ones
 - Member: could focus instead on sustainability – 3 kinds of sustainability (from UN report in 1980s): ecosystem (incl. water supply, etc), economy, social system
 - Policy areas come from CL staff, Met Council – trying to keep it uncomplicated
 - Doing facilitated workshops at such a large event might be difficult – would need lots of facilitators, would be hard to be consistent with such a large group
 - Member: small groups that aren't focused on “experts” can be very good at getting creative thinking from participants. Need a facilitator, good reporter, people walking around checking that groups stay on task. Groups should be 10 or less – quiet people tend to stop talking in groups of around 7 or 8. Important to do a quick training with the facilitators, but they don't need extensive training or experience
 - We're trying to use what we've learned through MAP 150 about coming to action steps without being based on an expert approach
 - We're thinking of doing breakout sessions on the 3 themes, held at the same time, and maybe doing a second session so people can participate in more than one
 - Previous years have featured keynote speakers – we're not sure that's the approach that will get people from the region to start working
 - Participants
 - Want broad participation – groups that work regionally, not only those that would normally be thought of as regional governance groups, and not just focused on 7-county structures
 - Member: outcome could be to identify the broader roles of citizen participation, and participation of various institutions, in the process of regional planning. If you do engagement right, it really empowers agencies by giving them a mandate to move forward
 - Maybe make the agenda public in the months before the conference and ask for comments online
 - Possible challenge to action: who owns what comes out of the process? Without specificity, it can be hard to do good follow-through
 - Ownership is McKnight's – this is their project; they approached us to help do it this year, but there's no understanding at this point that we will do it next year
 - Will McKnight also fund the actions that follow from the conference?
 - There's a lot more funding than just for a one-day conference, funding for work before and afterwards. We pushed on this point, said that if Citizens League was going to do this, it's not just about the event that day

- Suggestion: form working groups to do the work, in two phases: first initial discussion, then develop charge.
- Concern: seems like a good opportunity for Citizens League, but we could also end up with responsibility (or at least perceived responsibility) for following through on the work that comes out of it
- Please continue to give Bob feedback over email, especially ideas for groups we should meet with

Status of Study Proposal Review

- 11 people have signed up to be reviewers, and we're still looking for volunteers (contact Bob if you're interested). Have enough people now to start review process
- Hope reviewers will be able to look over study proposals before next Policy Advisory meeting
- Handout describes questions for reviewers to answer – very simple guidelines. Questions about reviewers experience and interest to make sure we're getting balance
- Criteria for proposals available on website
- Reviewers will receive the proposals that have come in via webform. Staff will also be making proposals, as asked at the last Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

Transportation Advancement

- Urban Partnership Agreement
 - 5/11 Gov. signed final piece of legislation necessary for the UPA to advance (1 day ahead of the deadline)
 - Also, Lakeville will join Metro Transit taxing district – that will extend the new Bus Rapid Transit line to Lakeville, build new park and rides – will be a big benefit for the UPA
 - People from Lakeville now drive to Apple Valley to use their park and rides. Didn't want to join Metro Transit taxing district because don't have service there. This will help resolve those problems
 - A very good outcome
- 5/5 events – outcomes on handout
 - Our 1st effort in using a civic policy agenda at an event – we agreed on outcomes, agenda at beginning, tried to get some agreements out of the event. It's difficult but important to practice that model

Fiscal Disparities, Mall of America

- Proposal was introduced to use the Fiscal Disparities pool to subsidize Mall of America parking ramp expansion
- Citizens League opposed, got some press around this
- Fiscal Disparities has been taken out of this package – but if the Gov. vetoes the bill, there could be end-of-session changes, so it's not definitely over
- Bloomington has a legitimate case – there still haven't been revenues coming into the city from the MOA Phase 1 TIF district. Bloomington is paying for police, fire, etc. but not getting additional tax revenue, so they're not happy

- From a transportation policy perspective, this is also a bad proposal because it subsidizes parking – Citizens League position is that actual costs of transportation should be transparent
- Also, should be sure that subsidizing free parking at the MOA doesn't just pull revenue from downtown or other shopping areas

Water Policy Study Committee

- Leadership team (co-chairs Gene Merriam and Dianne Krizan, board members Nena Street and Tom Teigen, members Larry Baker and Janna Caywood, and staff Bob DeBoer and Annie Levenson-Falk) has been meeting for past several weeks.
- Leadership team has taken what was done last year – a list of important questions about water policy in Minnesota – and developed it into a more specific charge for the committee.
- Currently working on committee selection
- Leadership team process has worked well – has been good to get together a small group of people knowledgeable about the issue and familiar with the Citizens League to work with staff to launch the project. Will be pulling together a leadership team for poverty work as well (see below)
- Important issues:
 - Water conservation – this isn't necessarily implied by "sustainability;" might want to call that out
 - Impaired waters – we have 1,000s of impaired waters in Minnesota because of non-point source pollution. Need to figure out how to manage this
 - Shoreview has increasing water fees – the more you use, the more you pay
- Challenge is focusing on what the committee can really do
- Haven't secured funding for this project yet

Poverty Study Committees

- May be structured differently from a traditional study committee – heavier on engagement in the beginning of the project.
- Has partial funding
- We'll be pulling a leadership team together soon and forming a charge to get to the Board

Health Care Advancement

- Reform looks unlikely to pass in legislation this year because of budget problems
- Governor initially proposed to take \$250 million from the Health Care Access Fund to fill budget gaps; has brought this down to \$48 million
- Work this year could be a starting point – after the legislative session, we'll probably see some market-based payment reform, convening of groups around the medical home idea, continued work on transparency issues. The ideas won't disappear
- Opponents called the proposed payment reforms "capitation," but that's not accurate – it was the idea of paying a single price for outcomes rather than paying for procedures. Could increase transparency, incentive to deliver quality care.

Policy and a Pint on Thursday

- Come! Event is May 15, doors at 5:30, program 6:00 – 7:00, after party at 7:00. Event is at Varsity Theater in Dinkytown; after party around the corner at Loring Pasta Bar

Member: What's going on around metropolitan governance?

- This is one of the areas around which we had talked about pulling together a short-term policy group.
- Haven't set up a group on this because initially not enough members volunteered to participate, but we might have enough people now.
- Will have to think about the best way to do this in context of the regional policy conference
- Judicial selection is the only short-term policy group that has sent proposal to the Board so far, but would like to do more

4. Evaluate whether outcomes were achieved

Average about 4.5

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June 10 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, July 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 12 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.