
Approved by a vote of the Committee – August 10, 2013

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2013**

Present: Leon Gaumond, Shaun Suhoski, Adam Gaudette, Tom Gregory, (Quorum - yes)
Staff: Trish Settles
Absent: Kristin Wood, Sherry Patch

1. Call to order – 1:25pm

2. Review of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Leon, seconded by Adam and four voted to approve the minutes of May 8, 2013.

3. Discussion of Spring Event

The committee discussed that timing for a Spring event might draw a larger attendance if held in March or April with the fall event in October. Both presenters provided good information.

In anticipation of future events, the committee discussed doing another survey to determine current priorities of the organization's constituency. The survey could be disseminated and collected at the fall event.

The following ideas were discussed as possible topics for the Fall event:

- Casino's, Affordable Health Care
- Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Planning Act (CLURPA)
- In depth review of Chapter 70 (specifically bringing in topical expert Mark Abrahams).

4. Process Discussion

Trish shared some information she gathered from MAPC's Legislative Affairs Staff Charlie Ticotsky. The committee generally likes the way that MAPC's Legislative Committee Charge is worded and is hopeful that something similar might be adapted for this committee.

According to Charlie Ticotsky from MAPC, it is not in their statute or anything but it is something approved by their Executive Committee. There are three general ways that they bring items to their Committee. The most common is a staff recommendation, but they also bring items to them when they are asked by outside groups to support something, and thirdly, if a member of the committee

wants to consider a bill. Then, the committee considers the legislation or budget item, and if approved, it goes to our Executive Committee for official approval.

The following is the MAPC Legislative Charge (September 2010):

The Legislative Committee of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) shall comprise those members appointed by the President, who shall also designate one to serve as Chair and another to serve as Vice-Chair. At least one-half of the Committee's members shall be representatives, alternates, or designees of the Council. To the greatest degree feasible, the Committee shall include at least one representative from each subregional council, and the Committee will, through its members, communicate with the subregional councils and seek their input to its deliberations. The Committee will meet on a monthly basis, unless the Chair shall cancel or postpone a meeting.

The charge of the Committee is to review and analyze bills filed in the Massachusetts Legislature or the Congress of the United States, other matters which might reasonably be expected to result in legislation, budget items, or resolutions, to determine if they are in the best interest of the Metropolitan Boston region, using the adopted regional plan as a guide.

From time to time, the Committee may invite guests or sponsor events to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and to educate other members of the Council.

The Committee may, at any time, recommend to the Executive Committee that MAPC should take a position in regard to any matter under the Committee's study, by a majority vote of those Committee members present and voting. If more urgent action is required than the schedule of the Executive Committee may allow, the recommendation can proceed to the Officers, who shall act on the Executive Committee's behalf. The Executive Committee, or the Officers in an emergency, can authorize a position to be taken on behalf of MAPC, with due consideration of any position recommended by the Legislative Committee.

The Legislative Committee may, from time to time, study matters related to the implementation of legislation, such as regulations or program guidelines, and may recommend positions to the Executive Committee, or Officers in an emergency, if it determines that such action is necessary to further the goals of the regional plan or if it believes that such a position is materially related to the full and fair implementation of a position that MAPC has taken on a prior piece of legislation.

The Legislative Affairs Committee wants to be sure its actions are within the authority/scope delegated by the Executive Committee so as to avoid any conflicts.

A motion was made to request that the Executive Committee provide clear guidance on what the committee should be doing or not doing with regard to taking action on and how the process of taking that action should be undertaken. The committee is looking for expectations particularly with regard to timing and process. They would like the Executive Committee to consider MAPC's charge as a model for that guidance. The motion was made and seconded and all present voted in favor.

Trish was asked to present this request to the Executive Committee at the next available opportunity. While before them, she will request that the vacant seat be filled.

5. New businesses:

Kristen Garza is no longer the Worcester Delegate. There is a new Worcester delegate. A request will be made to the Executive Committee to fill her seat on this committee.

6. Next meeting date: August 15th 9am at CMRPC

7. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

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