

Meeting Minutes
Sustainable Communities Planning Grant
Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Consortium
Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm
H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:

Bay City Community Economic Development Corporation, D.C. Dunham
Blueprint Houston, Joe Webb and Martha Murphree
Fort Bend County, Ron Drachenberg
City of Houston, Anna Sedillo
Harris County, Jared Briggs
Houston-Galveston Area Council, Jeff Taebel and Cheryl Mergo
Houston Tomorrow, David Crossley
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Katy Atkiss
Montgomery County, Joanne Ducharme
Neighborhood Centers, Inc., Tanya Makany-Rivera and Mike Lykes

Also in attendance (based upon sign-in sheet available at the meeting and meeting participation)

Meredith Dang, Andrea Tantillo and Amanda Thorin, H-GAC.

1. Regular Business – Call to Order

Joe Webb, Coordinating Committee First Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. Certify Quorum

Less than 51% of the member entities were present. There was no quorum of members at the meeting.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

4. Approval of August 28, 2013, Meeting Minutes

Due to no quorum at this meeting, this action item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Approval of October 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Due to no quorum at this meeting, this action item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Our Great Region 2040 Draft Plan Comment Period (Presentation)

Meredith Dang presented the overview of the draft plan public comment period and distributed an appendix of public comments. The public comment period was one month and included web and media announcements, as well as partner notices. Public comment was accepted in person at five open houses around the region and online through an interactive website. During the comment period, we had 5,400 online visitors and 58 attendees at public meetings offering 331 comments and 147 priority big ideas. We had 62 individuals pledge support of the plan and 7 organizations pledge support.

Additions to the plan, based on feedback, will include sections discussing:

- How the plan addresses air quality, aging and criminal justice
- How the plan does not infringe on citizens' rights
- Update on the strategy charts to include new funding sources

Discussion:

Next steps will be seeking endorsements from the Coordinating Committee member agencies and other agencies and organizations around the region. The updated plan will be presented to the H-GAC Board of Directors in January and February for consideration and adoption.

H-GAC will forward the presentation to the Coordinating Committee members and will develop a one-page flyer about the plan for Coordinating Committee members to use when seeking support and endorsements.

7. Alignment of Coordinating Committee Members Organizations and Our Great Region 2040 (Discussion)

Coordinating Committee members led a discussion on how their organizations have aligned their efforts/plans with *Our Great Region 2040*.

Discussion:

- Blueprint Houston – Latest edition of *Planning Matters* talks about the parallels between what Blueprint Houston has been doing and how it aligns with *Our Great Region 2040*. They are discussing synergies and benefits and how the plan can be considered when developing the Houston General Plan.
- Houston Tomorrow – Many plans around the region can align with *Our Great Region 2040*, such as the Houston General Plan, Greater Houston Partnership's Priority Plan, Center for Houston's Future Healthy Communities, Neighborhood Centers Inc.'s Houston-Galveston Opportunity Network, and H-GAC's Regional Transportation Plan.
- GCEDD – Using data and analysis to inform the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which provides high level economic analysis, outlines broad economic development goals, and provides the foundation for EDA grant applications; and aligning goals and strategies between the *Our Great Region 2040* and the CEDS to strengthen coordination and implementation efforts for each document. Seven of the CEDS' eight goals were tailored directly from the *Our Great Region 2040*.
- Fort Bend County – The Public Infrastructure Committee (engineering, health and human services, transportation) coordinates and networks the county's departments and cities in the area and will consider *Our Great Region 2040* when discussing future infrastructure plans.
- LISC – When LISC engages with a new community, they initiate a 1-year planning process. *Our Great Region 2040* can help inform this planning process as a reference. The plan can also serve as a reference for the LISC \$10 million mixed-use development Catalyst Award.
- City of Houston – Plans to move the plan forward following new council appointments.
- Harris County – Using data from the Fair Housing Equity Assessment in housing planning and working with the wastewater program to get people off septic systems and onto healthier, more efficient systems. The county continues to promote affordable housing; build community centers, parks and sidewalks; use disaster recovery funds to create a more resilient community, such as generators installed at community centers to be used as emergency centers and transportation and drainage improvement projects to reduce flooding.

- Neighborhood Centers Inc. – Considering *Our Great Region 2040* when looking at continued and future early education and workforce development programs. Will also be working with METRO to address transportation concerns.
- H-GAC – Working with the Transportation Department to find synergies between *Our Great Region 2040* and the Regional Transportation Plan. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board will consider *Our Great Region 2040* as they begin updating their plan. The Community and Environmental Planning Department is using data in the plan to inform grant applications, including flood management, forest services, and downtown revitalization projects.

8. Our Great Region Endorsement Process (Discussion)

Meredith Dang let the Coordinating Committee know that H-GAC staff is available to give presentations to gain support for *Our Great Region 2040*. She asked members to think about what support from their organizations would look like and let staff know what they needed to help facilitate that support.

Coordinating Committee members can also solicit support from other groups. Organizations can visit www.ourregion.org and find a link to support *Our Great Region 2040*. Group representatives can fill out the support form, and a member of the H-GAC staff will follow up. H-GAC also provided Coordinating Committee members with sample support forms organizations can complete and return to H-GAC.

Discussion

When is the deadline to get support and can we get a list of organizations that already support the plan? (The deadline to get support would ideally be before the February 18, 2014, H-GAC Board meeting. However, support is welcome on an ongoing basis. H-GAC can circulate a list of supporting organizations so Coordinating Committee members can help add recommendations for groups to follow up with and can see who has already pledged support so we don't duplicate efforts.)

9. Timeline and Next Steps (Discussion)

Meredith Dang presented the following next steps:

- December-February – Present the plan to Coordinating Committee leadership and other champions for support
- December – Presenting the plan to the Government Advisory Committee for support
- January – Coordinating Committee action to support the plan. Present the plan to H-GAC Board of Directors for information
- February – Request adoption of the plan by the H-GAC Board of Directors
- February – Grant period ends

10. Updates

Financial Report

Meredith Dang presented the financial report. We will be able to spend down the remaining allocated funds; however, more than \$500,000 is still needed to meet the match commitment for the grant.

11. Other Business

No other business was presented.

12. Announcements

No announcements.

13. Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 28, 2014
H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
H-GAC Conference Room A, Second Floor
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

However, the January meeting time may need to be changed due to a conflict with the Greater Houston Partnership's Annual Meeting.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Please contact Meredith Dang, H-GAC

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