

OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY

COUNCIL OF OFFICIALS  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 11, 2017

The January 11, 2017 Council of Officials meeting was held at Spezia in Omaha, Nebraska. Doug Kindig, Council President, opened the meeting by welcoming all Councilmembers and guest. The lunch started at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTION

Members Present:

Andy Biller	Executive Director, Council Bluffs Airport Authority
David Black	Mayor, City of Papillion
Patrick Bloomingdale	County Administrator, Douglas County
Tom Hanafan	Supervisor, Pottawattamie County
Wendell Kasprick	Councilmember, City of Silver City
Scott Keep	President, Metropolitan Utilities District
Doug Kindig	Mayor, City of La Vista
David Klug	Chairman, Papio-Missouri River NRD
Daniel Lawse	Chairman, Metro Transit Authority
Jerry McCall	Fremont Public Schools
Gary Mixan	Sarpy County
Cassie Paben	Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Omaha
James Realph	Mayor, City of Blair
Greg Reeder	City of Council Bluffs
Rita Sanders	Mayor, City of Bellevue
Carol Vinton	Supervisor, Mills County
Gerry Waltrip	Mayor, City of Carter Lake
Karen Watson	Commissioner, Omaha Housing Authority

Others:

Scott Belt	Pottawattamie County
Jamie Berglund	Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce
Joshua Biggs	Restoration Exchange Omaha
Ann Birch	City of La Vista
Jono Bradford	Kissel / E&S Associates
Pam Buethe	City of La Vista
Larry Burks	City of Bellevue
Richard Crouch	Mills County
Mandy Garrod	City of La Vista
Deb Hale	City of La Vista
Donna Kasprick	Citizen
Joe Mangiamelli	City of Bellevue
Cindy Miserez	City of La Vista
Joe Soucie	City of La Vista
Rod Storm	City of Blair
Kim Thomas	City of La Vista

MAPA Staff:

Christina Brownell	Josh Corrigan	Sue Cutsforth	Melissa Engel
Don Gross	Mike Helgersen	Karna Loewenstein	Patti McCoy
Jeff Spiehs	Greg Youell		

B. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – (ACTION)

MOTION by Sanders, SECOND by Waltrip to approve the October 5, 2016 minutes.  
Motion Carried.

C. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Authorize Council President to form a committee to recommend amendment of MAPA's Interlocal Agreement – (ACTION)

President Kindig requested approval from the Council to form a committee to recommend amendment of MAPA's Interlocal Agreement. Cass County has requested to join MAPA and this will require an update to MAPA's Interlocal Agreement. President Kindig made a request for two additional volunteers to assist the Council President and MAPA Staff in reviewing and revising the Interlocal Agreement.

MOTION by Sanders, SECOND by Paben to approve the authorization of the Council President to form a committee to recommend amendment of MAPA's Interlocal Agreement.  
Motion Carried.

2. Election of Iowa Small Communities Representative – (ACTION)

- a. Call for nominations for Iowa Small Communities Representative –
- b. Elect Iowa Small Communities Representative –

The Board of Directors has a vacant seat for Iowa Small Communities representative as Supervisor Ron Kohn has retired from public service. The Council appoints this seat annual, so the position will serve through June 30, 2017.

MOTION by Sanders to nominate Mills County Supervisor, Carol Vinton, to serve as the Iowa Small Communities Representative SECOND by Paben.

Nominations closed.

President Kindig called for a vote to accept the nomination of Supervisor Carol Vinton and to appoint her as the Iowa Small Communities representative for the remainder of the term through June 30, 2017.

Motion Carried.

D. MAPA Reports and Project Updates – (INFO)

1. Quarterly Report & Heartland 2050 Update –

Mr. Greg Youell provided an update to the Council on MAPA activities. MAPA has been working with Mills County on a Comprehensive Plan and submitted a Federal Trails application for a trail project in Glenwood, Iowa. Chuck Karpf, MAPA Housing Specialist, is working with Waterloo and Valley on applications for Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation grants that will be submitted this spring. MAPA is continuing work in Sarpy County for the Sarpy County Transit Study and getting close to the end of the study and reviewing recommendations. MAPA is working with the City of Gretna for a Downtown Revitalization Project and have received approval for the first planning phase. Designs were received from the City of Bellevue for the American Heroes Project for which MAPA assisted in the funding for the designs. In Pottawattamie County, one of two wells that serve the City of Walnut are not functioning, and MAPA is assisting the city in their application for a grant to build a new well. MAPA has submitted a grant application for Macedonia for a Downtown Revitalization Project and is continuing work on a Transportation Master Plan for Pottawattamie County. Washington County recently received a Revolving Loan Fund grant for an Ace Hardware store in Blair. MAPA has received applications for the Heartland 2050 Mini-Grants, there's \$330,000 in federal funding available and is limited to the MAPA transportation area. Five applications were received, three from Nebraska and two from Iowa. MAPA held a Strategic Planning Session with the MAPA Board in November and received great feedback.

2. Close the Gap, Salt Lake City Presentation – MAPA Staff & Jamie Berglund (Greater Omaha Chamber) –

MAPA Executive Director, Mr. Greg Youell and Ms. Jamie Berglund, Greater Omaha Chamber presented to the Council an overview of the trip to Salt Lake City for Heartland 2050's Close the Gap initiative. Salt Lake City was chosen for a site visit because of their similar outlook; conservative area; family oriented; similar population size; similar land-use patterns and they've had a significant amount of transportation investment in their area. They have completed more rail transit than any other metropolitan area in the past twenty years and they completed it ahead of schedule and under budget. A lot of development has come out of their Envision Utah process. The population has grown from <800,000 in the 1990's and is now just under 1.2M. The visit started with a trip to Envision Utah and a meeting with Robert Grow. Mr. Grow shared that the greatest export of their economy was their children and that led to the Envision Utah process. Salt Lake City is now towards the top for one of the fastest growing areas. Salt Lake City also ranks very well in upward mobility and assisting people in their growth at all levels. Part of Envision Utah's success is driven by their ability to create a vision that everybody is able to share. Ms. Berglund shared that one of the biggest issues that the Chamber focuses on is around talent and workforce and how to attract and retain talent. The Greater Omaha region lost over 4,000 individuals from 2000-2010 with Bachelor's degrees. Mr. Youell and Ms. Berglund presented details on areas of Salt Lake City that have been transformed by rail and streetcar.

E. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – (INFO)

1. Tom Cope (Iowa) – Avenson, Oakley & Cope –

Mr. Cope provided an update on legislative activities for Iowa. From 2010 – 2016 there was split control in Iowa. The Republicans took the majority in the Iowa Senate, which means the same party now controls the House, Senate and Governor's office. Big issues for this session are the budget for 2018-2019 and the Governor's cuts to state government programs. The Governor proposed \$110M in cuts, exempting two significant portions of the budget from cuts for 2017: K-12 education system and all property tax credits. As a result, the rest of the State budget is facing a larger impact. Another issue is the elimination or reformation of the collective bargaining law in Iowa, Chapter 20 of Iowa Code. An issue that is expected to draw attention is minimum wage. Many observers in Iowa believe that if the State Law establishes a minimum wage that preempted local governments from having the authority to set their own minimum wage. The legislature will certainly look at restating or putting a firm preemption on local ordinances as it relates to minimum wage and will likely deal with other employment practices. Various social issues are also sure to be focal points of the upcoming session.

2. Jono Bradford (Nebraska) – Kissel / E&S Associates –

Mr. Bradford provided an update on legislative activities for Nebraska and gave an overview of some bills of interest for MAPA.

- LB95 – First TIF bill, modifies provisions in community development law related to tax-increment financing (TIF) projects; in order to make various processes including auditing, public notice, reporting, records retention, and cost-benefit analyzation more transparent, and to provide for more local oversight of TIF projects
- LB97 – Riverfront Development District Act – includes the rivers of Missouri, Platte (North & South) and the Elkhorn River

Neither of these bills have been set for hearing. The Governor will give his State of the Union speech on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and traditionally afterwards the Speaker will introduce the budget bills moving forward for the 2017 – 2019.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS – (Info)

Community reports were skipped due to the time restraints.

G. ADJOURNMENT –

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.