

**Metropolitan Advisory Council  
March 8, 2005  
Botanical Center**

**Members present:** Council Member Skip Conkling, Altoona  
Mayor Merle Johnson, Ankeny  
Council Member Steve Van Oort, Ankeny  
Mayor Ruth Randleman, Carlisle  
Council Member Pat Stump, Carlisle  
Mayor Les Aasheim, Clive  
Supervisor Mark Hanson, Dallas Co.  
Council Member Christine Hensley, Des Moines  
Mayor Marty Glanz, DeSoto  
Mayor Jerry Kelley, Indianola  
Mayor Mike Kendall, Mitchellville  
Council Member, Scott Lorenzen, Norwalk  
Mayor Mark Langerud, Pleasant Hill  
Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, Polk County  
Mayor Don Brush, Urbandale  
Council Member Mary Polson, Urbandale  
Council Member Darlene Stanton, Waukee  
Mayor Gene Meyer, West Des Moines  
Council Member Ted Ohmart, West Des Moines  
Mayor Ned Miller, Windsor Heights  
Council Member Jerry Sullivan, Windsor Heights

**Staff Present:** Kandi Reindl, Des Moines City Manager's Office

**Guests Present:** Jeff Riese, Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Assn.  
Jay Byers, Greater Des Moines Partnership  
Marilyn Staples, Mayor's Select Committee

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Aasheim called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the February 8, 2005 MAC meeting were motioned for approval by Merle Johnson, seconded by Tom Hockensmith. All voted in favor.

Les Aasheim welcomed John Wood, Council member for the City of Mitchellville and Don Brush, Mayor of Urbandale as new members of the MAC

## **RECOMMENDATION TO STRUCTURE COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE AS A MAC SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Skip Conkling reported that at the retreat it was suggested the Council Roundtable become a special committee under the MAC and said this is important for coordination purposes. The last couple of years, other council members that were not part of the MAC were attending the Council Roundtable, but in the past couple of years, it's been the same people attending both. One area that needs to be addressed is the dues that were paid to the Council Roundtable. Any outstanding monies will be deposited in the MAC fund. Skip said he has visited with other members who attend the Council Roundtable and they seem to be fine with this recommendation.

Skip Conkling made the motion and Mike Kendall seconded that the Council Roundtable become a MAC Special Committee. All voted in favor, motion carried.

## **JAIL REFERENDUM**

Sheriff Dennis Anderson presented and explained a fact sheet on the proposed new jail. (See attached). Sheriff Anderson said the intent of Polk County is to pay off the new building within 10 years. This is a long range plan that is expandable. Anderson said 85% of the inmates are there because of drugs and 30% of those checked in test positive for drugs.

Tom Hockensmith added that one of the glaring points is the dollars that are going to other counties and they are building new jails and saying they will house Polk Co. inmates.

Skip Conkling asked if personnel will be added?

Sheriff said they are staff heavy so there will be no additions at this time.

Tom Hockensmith said a 45 acre site has been selected on NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Polk Co. has an option to buy if the referendum passes.

## **MAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

Tom Hockensmith made the motion to appointment Mary Polson to the MAC Executive Committee. Merle Johnson seconded. All voted in favor.

## **CITY OF DES MOINES AND POLK COUNTY COOPERATIVE EFFORTS**

Tom Hockensmith reported that Polk County and the City of Des Moines have been meeting for quite some time on several areas. Tom handed out a list of those areas of shared services. (See attached). Another joint meeting will be

held again on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Tom said this is a long process but all those involved are committed.

Chris Hensley added that the schools are also getting on board and meeting with area school boards to see if there are areas where they can collaborate.

Tom Hockensmith said that in the future, he would like to see other communities become involved.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

It was reported that the Legislature is considering an open meeting bill which needs to be opposed. The Governance committee will have a report out on March 21<sup>st</sup> and seems to be leaning towards COGs.

Chris Hensley said there will be a press conference tomorrow announcing a lawsuit by landlords on the taxation of apartment buildings being commercial. She also said that she was flat out told by leadership that there will not be a bill on franchise fees.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Trails**

Ruth Randleman – We had our last meeting with the MAC work group yesterday and hopefully the final document will be coming out. A subcommittee meeting was held with legislators regarding condemnation for trails.

### **Project Destiny**

Les Aasheim - We are still working on this and in a transition period, but we are still continuing our efforts.

Jay Byers updated the group on Project Destiny and thanked those that have taken a very strong leadership role and who have adopted the MOU. He said he knows that puts a burden on elected officials when there is a proposed tax increase, so they have been redeveloping strategies and creating a grassroots approach. Byers said they are still moving forward and extremely excited about the opportunities and that he also has a generic timeline that they are looking at right now.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Jerry Sullivan questioned what the City of Des Moines and Polk County were doing regarding the uniform building code ordinance and licensing. Hensley said she would have Mayor Cownie contact him.

Les Aasheim said that at the goal setting retreat one of the issues that was raised was water. There is a Central Iowa Clean Water Commission and Aasheim asked if the MAC was interested in having this commission present to the MAC. Les will explore.

Chris Hensley asked about the BRAVO adoption. Five cities have adopted. Ankeny and Altoona won't be addressing it until next year.

The Council Roundtable will meet again on March 24 at the Capitol in Room 116 at 7:30 a.m.

Les Aasheim said he contacted John Easter and Susan Judkins to see when a good time would be for the MAC to be up at the Hill. They will contact him and an email will be sent out.

Tom Hockensmith – The County will continue to work with Des Moines Water Works in merging with SE Polk rural water. Legislation will probably be acquired.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.