# MSCOD Council Meeting

March 18, 2014

MNDOT CENTRAL BUILDING-G14

395 JOHN IRELAND BLVD

ST. PAUL, MN 55155

1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(APPROVED June 5, 2014)

## CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Barb Stensland acting chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. Council members Christine Versaevel, Dean Ascheman, Jim Thalhuber and Barb Stensland attended on site. Nathan Aalgaard, Robert Johnson, Kim Tyler, Nancy Rosemore, Stephen Grams, Carlos Vazquez, David Schwartzkopf and Kathy Wingen participated by phone. Bryce Samuelson joined the meeting by phone at 2:00 p.m. Ex-officios that attended were: Linda Lingen, Gail Lundeen, Barb Lundeen, Femina Ajayi-Hackworth, and Lorie Roth. Staff members present were: Joan Willshire, Margot Imdieke Cross, Colin Stemper, Stuart Cross, Shannon Hartwig, Chad Miller, Mai Thor, Colleen Casey, Julie Koehler, and Elizabeth Demski.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Kathy Wingen motioned for approval of the agenda. Jim Thalhuber seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Kim Tyler motioned for approval of the January 23, 2014 minutes with corrections. Kathy Wingen seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Rebecca Covington of MNCCD reported the budget targets for Health & Human services has been set at $75 million by the House and $80 million by the governor. She recommended that lobbying should focus on the Senate leadership to increase the budget. The 5% campaign, part of a larger omnibus bill, had a hearing in the Senate on March 12, 2014 and will have a hearing in the House. The governor supports a 4% increase that includes a 1% quality increase; the House supports a 4% level. Negotiating and advocacy needs to continue so 5% may be realized. The bill on CFSS, which replaces pcas, needs to be heard by March 21, 2014 in order to avoid delay in implementation. This would allow self-directed budgets, increases in assistance, and provide a 6% potential match from the Federal government.

Colin Stemper presented an update on MSCOD’s legislative priorities. There is a House hearing on updating disability parking signs on March 18, 2014. There is a bill changing TAAC to advise on transit routes and metro mobility that went to the Senate. MSCOD met with the Met Council on light rail accessibility. The second generation light rail is less accessible; there are fewer disability seats and companion seating. This needs to change and find solutions for future planning. The anti-bullying bill went back to the Senate committee; there are questions on training. The proposed MNNET policy changes appears fragile. The minimum wage bill is still being debated regarding tying the index to inflation. The joint legislative finance committee hearing was critical of the four small minority agencies; MSCOD was not a part of this review.

## CAPITOL RENOVATION UPDATE

Commissioner Conk and Wayne Waslaski, director of construction services reported on the historic renovation of the Capitol. The bi-partisan commission approved a master plan to upgrade the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and telecommunication systems and to make functional updates to make the building more accessible to meet all ADA standards. There will be an increase in unisex and accessible restrooms as well as universal signage and communications for the deaf/blind. They both thanked MSCOD for our involvement in this effort.

## ELECTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & VICE-CHAIR

Council members with an interest in serving on the Executive Committee were: Dean Ascheman, Bob Johnson, Barb Stensland, Jim Thalhuber, Kathy Peterson, Stephen Grams, and Kathy Wingen. The council was instructed to vote for 4 candidates by paper ballot or e-mail to be processed by ex-officios. The four members elected were: Barb Stensland, Bob Johnson, Dean Ascheman, and Kathy Peterson. The council members were then requested to vote for one of the selected four to be the vice-chair by ballot or e-mail. Barb Stensland was elected vice-chair.

## OLMSTEAD UPDATE

Interim executive director David Sherwood presented a brief update on Olmstead implementation. Currently it is a small office with large plans. It was the result of the 1999 judicial decision and the 2006 Options Too planning. It involves eight different agencies working on employment, housing, and health care and has an ADA commitment to all individuals inclusive (all ages and disabilities). There is a plan on the website and public comments are encouraged through May.

## ADA 25TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Mai Thor discussed the status and vision of the Legacy fund for the 25th ADA anniversary. There are 5 committees; however, the theatrical committee has not met as of now. The survey committee will have focus groups throughout the state. An outside group has been engaged to conduct this. The committee welcomes all input as to speakers, how to best present ADA history whether by video, theatrical work, or exhibits.

## BUDGET

Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the 2014 budget report of 02/01/2014. It was seconded by Jim Thalhuber. It was unanimously approved by roll call voice vote.

Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of the 01/03/2014 through 02/03/2014 MSCOD Pos totaling $4555.95. Bryce Samuelson seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by roll call voice vote.

Dean Ascheman motioned for approval of contracts totaling $1175.00 from 01/03/2014 to 02/03/2014. Christine Versaevel seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Joan Willshire introduced two new part-time employees: Colleen Casey assisting Mai Thor on the Legacy project; and Chad Miller who will work on creating accessible documents. The next council meeting will be on June 5, 2014 and we will revisit our strategic plan regarding Olmstead plans.

## ADJOURNMENT

Dean Ascheman motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Demski