June 11, 2019
Botanical Gardens

Members present:  Mayor Dean O’Connor, Altoona
                  Mayor Drew Merrifeld, Carlisle
                  Council Member John Edwards, Clive
                  Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines
                  Council Member Chris Coleman, Des Moines
                  Council Member Eric Johansen, Grimes
                  Council Member Jaki Livingston, Norwalk
                  Council Member Robert Sarchet, Polk City
                  Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County
                  Mayor Bob Andeweg, Urbandale
                  Council Member Kim Sacker, Van Meter
                  Mayor Dave Burgess, Windsor Heights
                  Council Member Zachary Bales-Henry, Windsor Heights

Staff Present:  Kandi Reindl-Sullivan, Asst. to the City Manager, Des Moines
               Jeff Lester, Des Moines City Attorney

Guests Present:  Supervisor Angela Connolly
                 Supervisor Bob Brownell
                 Kevin Foley, Des Moines International Airport
                 Robert Palmer, Iowa League of Cities
                 Melissa Olson, Central Iowa Services and Shelter

Approval of the May 14, 2019 minutes were moved for approval by Drew Merrifeld and seconded by Dean O’Connor. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Corrections – add Bob Andeweg as present.

DES MOINES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPDATE

Kevin Foley presented on the attached powerpoint.
Jaki Livingston – Is there an Infrastructure bill with the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) already out?

Kevin Foley – No, Congressman Peter Fazio is trying to get an infrastructure bill out that includes an increase in the PFC.

John Edwards – What’s the opportunity for expansion beyond what you presented?

Kevin Foley - Phase 1 was for 14 gates, phase 2 was for 18 gates, but since we are growing quicker than anticipated Phase 1 will be 18 gates.

Matt McCoy – What is our current gate capacity?

Kevin Foley – Our current gate capacity is 12 right now.

Robert Sarchet – How many of those gates are for regional jets?

Kevin Foley – Presently there are 2.

**CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH**

Polk County Supervisors Bob Brownell and Angela Connolly provided an overview of the children’s mental health system - We do have an adult mental health system and that is about it. There are 14 different regions in Iowa and our hope was they would be replacing it with counties. Polk County is our own region. We are not the biggest client basis that is the one Cedar Rapids is in. We are spending $114 million on mental health and that money comes from property taxes. We’ve had to go back to the Legislature every year to ask for more money to cover the gap. Our budget is $23-25 million. Now here comes children’s mental health and who is going to pay for that and we don’t know right now. If property taxes need to cover that, there are some groups out there that oppose raising property taxes to cover mental health. $180 million is needed. Adult mental health is underfunded, but if you’re going to include children’s mental health is that $180 million enough to provide services? The concern is, is it just going to be counties that pay for this? We would like to spend the 1 cent sales tax for mental health and not raise property taxes and the shortfall is $7 million. Medicaid rules also prohibit us from using some revenue sources. Broadlawns is also helping us out with $6 million of in-kind services. Our population is growing, but our levy is staying the same.
We need to be ready in April in 2020, but we don’t have the dollars for the children’s mental health system. Des Moines’ one cent sales tax will contribute some revenue. Not every county has a Broadlawns and the funding like we do, so this is a statewide issue. If we provide a better mental health system, we will get others to move here to receive our services. Mercy out in Clive is adding 64 children’s beds which is wonderful for our community.

There will be many differences between counties/regions and there is a task force trying to figure out a plan.

Matt McCoy – It’s a difficult situation when the Legislature gives a mandate with no funding.

Chris Coleman – What can we do to help?

Angela Connolly – When the Legislature is in session talk to your legislators.

Bob Brownell – Another support group we need to engage are the school board members.

Angela Connolly – The mobile crisis unit will help with the metro are and will be a resource for all the metro schools, but we need to figure out how to fund it. We will be having a statewide crisis line that we all have to use and we need to figure out how to fund that as well.

Bob Brownell – With children, the mobile crisis unit will not include a police officer, there will be counselors and therapists. The Legislature thinks one size fits all and it does not work that way.

Mary Neubauer with the Iowa Lottery who lost her son to suicide has been advocating for funding for children’s mental health

Frank Cownie - What are the ages?

Angela Connolly – Up to 18 years of age.

Frank Cownie – When the teachers can’t control these kids, the School Resource Officers (RSO) go in which causes more trauma to the kid. These kids will quit trusting police officers because of this.

Angela Connolly – If we can treat them early, they won’t get into the adult system
Children’s Mental Health Facts:

- 80,000 children in Iowa have a diagnosed Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)
- 1 in 5 children ages 13-18 have or will have a serious mental illness
- There are only 31 child psychiatrists in Iowa, mainly located in Iowa City and Des Moines
- Approximately 50% of children age 14 and older with a mental illness drop out of high school
- 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental illness
- In Iowa, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in youth & young adults ages 15-34 (higher than the national average)

A lot of these kids will have insurance, but we will do our best.

Matt McCoy– One of the reasons you are here, is the taskforce is asking you to inform the metro area of the problem and to help brainstorm for the funding of the children’s mental health system. You can designate funding for those kids in the schools and you can keep the money in your respective schools.

Dean O’Connor – Can we pay the schools directly?

Angela Connolly – I think there will be a mechanism to do just that.

Matt McCoy – It could be a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or a 28E agreement with your school district.

Angela Connolly – If we could get every school to have a community resource area in their schools like what Orchard Place does at Scavo, that would be helpful.

Dave Burgess – Are these separate numbers for children and adults?

Bob Brownell – Yes they are separate numbers.

MAC PRIORITIES

Air BnBs/Rental Property Regulations
Chris Coleman – Curt Gause has worked his way with documentation for input with MAC. It is our goal to open up Air BnBs to make it easy to do or looking for ways to restrict them and banish them. We are looking for ways to restrict them. Next meeting will hopefully have a recommendation.

**Stormwater Mitigation Strategies**

John Swanson from Polk County Conversation gave an update on some of the strategies with the watershed plans, stormwater regulations in neighborhoods and trying to retrofit them and regulations with new development. We need to update the design criteria and do it together as a metro region. We would like your technical staff to all sit down to see how we could do it better. Looking at how much we have all spent on stormwater and the damage - $400 million has been spent in the last 10 years. The new development piece is where we can achieve better outcomes through ordinances and partnerships. Through Capital Crossroads we can work together on these issues.

We would like to have MAC be a leadership committee assisting with these strategies.

Bob Andeweg – We have attended most of the council meetings in the area and I think there should be a MAC working group for general updates and support and roll out some metro side initiative. Bob offered to chair, Dave Burgess offered to be on the committee.

Frank Cownie– We went to developers many years ago asking them to maintain tree cover and top soil with new developments and we discovered we would go out and inspect these areas, the developers had plowed down the trees and taken the topsoil. What kind of sticks do we have to enforce these requirements?

John Swanson – The bigger focus is how we are going to do this and maybe there are easier wins with retention ponds. We need to update the design criteria first. At the end of the day we are going to have to rely on enforcement and it needs to happen on a metro wide basis with requirements.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

The August 6 LOSST vote will take place.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.