Members present: Mayor Dean O’Connor, Altoona
Mayor Drew Merrifield, Carlisle
Council Member John Edwards, Clive
Council Member Chris Coleman, Des Moines
Council Member Tom Cope, Johnston
Council Member Jaki Livingston, Norwalk
Council Member Curt Gause, Pleasant Hill
Council Member Robert Sarchet, Polk City
Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County
Mayor Bob Andeweg, Urbandale
Council Member David Russell, Urbandale
Council Member Kim Sacker, Van Meter
Council Member Courtney Clarke, Waukee
Council Member Russ Trimble, West Des Moines
Mayor Dave Burgess, Windsor Heights
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: Hannah Inman, Great Outdoors Foundation
Gunnar Olson, MPO
Art Witmack, Taxpayers Assn. of Iowa
Andrea Woodard, Greater Des Moines Partnership
Dan Stalder, Iowa League of Cities
Melissa O’Neil, Central Iowa Services and Shelter
Shelly Watkins, Central Iowa Services and Shelter
Alex Hassell, City of Des Moines

Approval of the August 13, 2019 minutes were moved for approval by Dean O’Connor and seconded by David Russell. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
WATER TRAILS

Gunnar Olson and Hannah Inman presented on the attached powerpoint.

Questions:

Russ Trimble – What is the breakdown of the $84 million?

Hannah Inman - 1/3 State and Local and 1/3 Federal.

Russ Trimble – Do you see the 1/3 for state and local being 50/50?

Hannah Inman – For the state and local funding, we are exploring things like I-Will, but we have to wait for the Army Corps of Engineers process to be put into place before we can do anything.

David Russell – How do you overcome the perception of the rivers being dirty?

Hannah Inman – Saylorville acts as a filter for the Des Moines River, but there will be some issues. We are working with Polk County on water quality issues. We need to educate people on when the water is too fast or the bacteria level is high. Once you get on the water, it is a totally different experience.

Gunnar Olson – We have to manage the perception. We are not going to have the streams that you see in Colorado.

Chris Coleman – I’ve heard that water quality is a big priority and it will change the discussion with the water trails project. There is a big difference between drinking water and recreation water.

Tom Cope – I would suggest that you incorporate council members in along with the Mayors and City Managers.

Dean O’Connor – We sit up on a hill and we don’t have water trails, but we also don’t have flooding problems. If we could get some momentum on water quality, I’m all on board, but I’m not sure the City of Altoona wants to pay for the downtown projects.
MAC PRIORITIES

Airbnbs/Rental Property Regulations

Curt Gause – The working group met and we can see the finish line. Des Moines recently amended their ordinance and we decided to model that ordinance. It is designed to gear towards snowbirds. Everything would require a conditional use permit through Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA). Our goal is to have efficient oversight by the City so neighbors have a say so. Maybe look at having different classes of Airbnbs with different inspections.

Chris Coleman – What we acted on is that Airbnbs can operate year-round if the owner is present or four months if they are out of town like the snowbirds. Not for sure what the City will end up with. Annual inspections will be required and to go before the ZBA to obtain a conditional use permit. There are a ton of people staying at these Airbnbs right now. Everyone right now is collecting hotel/motel tax, but I don’t know how the State tracks it on who receives that tax.

Dean O’Connor – Did you have anyone show up at the Council meeting that were in opposition to Airbnbs?

Chris Coleman – Last night no, but we had a couple of flash points a few years ago and we actually also had a “party house” with a lot of Drake students renting it to get off of campus and ruin the neighborhood for 48 hours. The owner didn’t care about the reviews since he was making money.

Tom Cope – When you say the owner has to be there. What does that mean?

Curt Gause – The owner has to be on property almost like a bed and breakfast.

John Edwards – When will this be finalized?

Curt Gause – We will hopefully have this by the next MAC meeting.

Stormwater Mitigation Strategies

Bob Andeweg – Substance is being done through Capital Crossroads with presentations at Council meetings. Next Monday there will be a meeting of the working group to start working and discussing next steps ad tools with the goal of having something of substance by the end of the year. The good news is the region is on board with this.
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Need working groups on bike ordinances and e-scooters to help with regional ordinances.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.