

## **Zoning Assessment Steering Committee**

Session 2 | 02/14/23 | 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

### **Welcome and Session Introduction**

Attendance: 32 people, including MPC and Urban Institute staff.

MPC noted a change to the steering committee schedule, where session 3 will now focus on the outcomes (that was originally scheduled for session 5). The remaining sessions will be:

- Session 3: Outcomes
- Session 4: People and Processes
- Session 5: Code and Other Requirements
- Session 6: Review Methodology and Debrief the Process

Today's session objectives:

1. Acknowledge the forces and power dynamics that shaped zoning over time
2. Co-create definitions for key terms that will define the framework for reviewing zoning in Chicago

Notecards are provided for additional ideas and thoughts and are collected at the end of the session.

### **Group Agreements and Degrees of Agreement**

MPC reminded the steering committee that the group agreements and "fist to five" voting tool will remain in place during the session.

### **Timeline Historical Acknowledgement**

MPC lead a brief presentation on the historical impact of zoning from two different periods of time in Chicago. These included the first zoning ordinance in 1923 and the practice of downzoning in the 1970s. The presentation included an exploration of the power dynamics, benefits, burdens, and outcomes of these zoning moments as case studies.

### **Pre-Reading Debrief and Discussion**

MPC facilitated a debrief and discussion to allow participants to share their thoughts on the pre-reading, *WTTW Firsthand Series on Segregation* in Chicago article. Participants were invited to share learnings, thoughts or reflections.

Highlights of Discussion:

There were robust conversations around the connections between segregation and zoning. We need to build a stronger understanding between these past policies and the continued impacts they have in the present as well as the mechanisms that continue to exclude people. The WTTW Firsthand series effectively highlights intentionality behind Chicago's segregation. These materials would be especially beneficial for individuals, including government staff, who may have the assumption that people move

near other people that look like them out of their own will, disregarding the impact of the laws designed to keep racial and ethnic groups in particular locations. The collection of historical data and context allows people to build solidarity rather than putting blame on those who may benefit from the segregation.

### **Definitions Activity**

Participants were tasked with creating working definitions for:

- Equity
- Sustainability
- Public Health
- Equitable Development
- Environmentally Sustainable Development

After a brief individual activity to craft an initial definition, each group wrote their collective working definition for their assigned term on a flipchart paper. The larger group was tasked with reviewing each definition and adding something they liked, something they had a question about, something they thought should not be included, and something they thought was missing on post-it notes. Finally, MPC facilitated a discussion to review the working definition for *Equity*. Using the “fist to five” consensus model the steering committee voted to move forward with this definition with the caveat that it would be revisited on the future.

Equity Definition: Outcomes and processes that result in fair and just access to opportunity and resources that provide everyone the opportunity to thrive – by way of repairing past harms and transforming power dynamics so that oppressed groups, both historically and presently, have the power and resources that they need to thrive.

### **Next Steps**

The next meeting will be held on March 14 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm at the Metropolitan Planning Council. We will review and vote on the remaining terms and work collectively on an outcome and metric exercise at the next meeting.