

LISABETH BARAJAS

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Community Development Division| Metropolitan Council, 2018-Present

Lead an integrated team in the Community Development Division in long range planning for the Twin Cities 7-county region, implementation of regional plans and policies, technical assistance to local governments for plan preparation and implementation, and the provision of rent assistance to families in the Council's public housing agency service area. In collaboration with senior leaders, leads and coordinates the long-range planning efforts for the Twin Cities region, including the development of the region's growth and management policy and the development of the region's land use policy, housing policy, and regional parks and trails plan and policies. Collects, analyzes, and publishes research and data about the region, forecasts growth trends, establishes the region's population numbers, and analyzes other regional trends.

Local Planning Assistance Manager | Metropolitan Council, 2012-2018

Manage the implementation of the Metropolitan Land Planning Act through the provision of technical planning assistance to local governments; advising the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee; intergovernmental collaboration on planning issues of regional and sub-regional importance; and official reviews of local comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and environmental reviews. Served as the division's staff lead on the Council's climate change initiative, which focuses on collaboration with others to support regional approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation. Led the development of Thrive land use policy and community designations.

Planning Analyst, Sector Representative| Metropolitan Council, 2008-2012

Previously Senior Planner and Planner

Served as the liaison between the Metropolitan Council, Council Members, and communities in the eastern part of the metropolitan area. Served as a technical planning resource for Council Members and communities. Acted as principal reviewer for comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and environmental reviews to determine conformance to regional plans and consistency with regional policies. Provided staff expertise on annexation and incorporation issues in the region, including regional policy analysis and implications of proposed annexation/adjustment requests. Performed regional policy analysis on a variety of other issues, including long range planning, ordinance implementation, and feasibility studies. Managed program monitoring development and redevelopment in the metropolitan area.

Planner, Vice President | Community Growth Institute, Brainerd, MN, 2005-2007

Previously Planner, 2004-2005

Provided planning and zoning administration services to a variety of rural communities in northern Minnesota and on the developing edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Also provided long-range planning assistance for communities, including the facilitation of comprehensive planning processes for 6 different communities, ordinance reviews and writing for several communities, community meeting facilitation, and research and findings for planning issues in client communities. Responsible for negotiating contracts and managing budgets for multiple clients on various projects, including monthly planning and zoning administration budgets and long-range planning projects.

EDUCATION

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, 2002-2004.

Concentration in natural resource and recreation resource management

Gustavus Adolphus College, B.A. Geography & B.A. Environmental Studies, 1998-2002