

Jon Commers

Principal

2288 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55114
Phone 1.651.645.4644
www.donjek.com



DONJEK

Core

- Urban redevelopment implementation
- Identification of partnership opportunities for private and public clients
- Public finance and public investment expertise
- Macro- and micro-scale economic development
- Small business and entrepreneurship development
- City, State and Federal policy formation

Experience

Donjek, Incorporated, St. Paul, MN

Principal, 2007-present

Commers founded and operates an urban redevelopment consulting business, providing service to private, public and nonprofit clients. As principal, Commers handles every aspect of the business, from managing a large network of contacts to marketing, communication, accounting and finance. A sample of recent projects:

- Starting in 2007, Donjek assisted Wellington Management, and then Doran Companies, with strategy and partnership analysis for the \$45 million City Limits project in St. Paul, Minnesota. The project will provide housing options matched with direct access to light rail transit, on a site previously occupied by a substandard and underutilized structure.
- The Brookings Institution and local partners retained Donjek to manage the Minneapolis St. Paul pilot project of the Brookings metropolitan business plan initiative. The Minneapolis St. Paul region was one of three initially selected by the Brookings Institution to explore use of business planning as an innovative metro-wide economic development approach.
- Donjek formed and led a project team for the Trust for Public Land, to conduct an economic and tax base impact study for the Gateway project in downtown Minneapolis. Using GIS analysis, land investor and developer interviews, and national studies, the project team analyzed hundreds of properties, deriving estimates of impact created by conversion of land to open space in the Gateway. Commers has also served the City of Minneapolis working in the West Bank and on Lowry Avenue, examining market opportunities associated with transportation and land use changes in each area.

Metropolitan Council, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro Region

Council Member, 2011-present

In 2011 Commers was appointed by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton to join the Metropolitan Council, the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. In this role, Commers represents an urban district on a council responsible for a \$750 million budget. Council responsibilities include operation and development of the region's transit and wastewater systems, coordination of comprehensive planning, affordable housing administration, and acquisition of public parks. Commers serves as Chair of the Land Use Advisory Committee, Vice Chair of the Community Development Committee, and as a member of the Transportation and Investment Committees.

Saint Paul Planning Commission, St. Paul, MN

Chair, 2011-2012

Member, 2006-2012

In February, 2006 Commers was appointed by Mayor Chris Coleman to the planning commission, and was reappointed in 2009. He has presided over the largest rezoning in City history (over 800 properties), co-chairs the West Midway Industrial Area task force, and is past chair of the comprehensive planning committee. He is a member of the commission's executive and zoning committees.



Springsted Public Finance Advisors, St. Paul, MN

Project Manager, 2000-6

Commerz structured over \$1.5 billion in bond issues for local governments, institutions of higher education, and other clients including the State of Minnesota. Managing projects lasting from two weeks to fifteen months, Commerz created analytical tools to model public capital planning and tax impact scenarios.

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, Minneapolis, MN

Policy Fellow, 2005-6

Commerz was selected to be one of thirty members of the 2005-6 class of Humphrey policy fellows.

College of Saint Catherine, St. Paul, MN

Adjunct Professor of Economics, 2003-4

Commerz was appointed as an adjunct professor of economics in 2003, and taught an upper-level course on the theory and practice of investment for two years, until the position was filled with a tenure-track faculty member.

Education

University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MN

Master of Business Administration, 2000

As an MBA student, Commerz concentrated in finance, and was a founding portfolio manager of the Aristotle Fund, a student-managed portfolio within the University endowment.

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Bachelor of Arts, 1995

Majoried in history and political economy.

Networks

- LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/joncommerz>
- Twitter: Donjek content at @commerz

Recent Speaking

- Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference, 2012
- Mid-Continent Regional Science Association, Annual Conference, 2012
- West Broadway Coalition Annual Meeting, 2012
- Living Cities, Integration Initiative Conference, 2011
- Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 2011
- Minnesota Conference on Policy Analysis, 2011
- Minnesota Brownfields Annual Conference, 2010
- Urban Land Institute Annual Program, moderator, 2010, panelist, 2009
- Minnesota Recreation and Park Association annual conference, September, 2009

Awards

Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition, 2011

American Institute of Architects, Honor Award/Regional and Urban Design, 2010