

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL RETREAT MEETING

Tuesday, August 9, 2005
Discovery Center

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Rod Park, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain (excused), Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Retreat at 9:01 a.m.

1. Welcome and South Waterfront Presentation

Mark Williams introduced the South Waterfront District Plan.

2. OVERVIEW - Nature in Neighborhoods Initiative

Stacey Triplett, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, reviewed the agenda for the day. She noted what were the six interrelated areas.

Council President Bragdon raised the issue of amendments for Ordinance No. 05-1077B and noted that staff would be presenting those issues at this session.

- 2.1 Working at the Watershed/Habitat Conservation Area scale
- 2.2 Capacity-building among region's actors
- 2.3 Six interrelated areas of Nature in Neighborhoods discussions of strategy

Ms. Triplett talked about what gets measured gets managed. They wanted to keep the 80,000 acres in mind. One of the most important issue was which watershed did it fall into. She gave an example of Johnson Creek Watershed and the sub-watersheds such as Kellogg Creek. Focusing on the watershed and the habitat within the watershed was the basic concept. She proposed that when talking about monitoring the area, they did something that captured all of the areas of the program. Those components included watershed integrity, habitat friendly development, capacity, and contiguous habitat connectivity. Some of these were measures that people already collect. How much connectivity do we have? These were measures that they were asking the local jurisdictions to be collecting. She spoke to watershed integrity measures. They were seeking to measure with the partners. She then addressed the issue of habitat friendly development. She noted alternatives futures for setting performance standards for environmental values (a copy of the chart was shared with the Council and staff). She talked about gut level measures such as air quality, being able to see down the road.

Council President Bragdon asked how they measure restoration efforts. How do you capture this? Ms. Triplett said they were asking jurisdictions to provide some of this information. She talked about opportunities for restoration within the 80,000 acres. She felt it was a measure in watershed health. Councilor Liberty talked about bald eagles and heron that had large nesting areas because people monitor them and took care of them. He spoke to research that had already occurred and asked how we could integrate this research, which was primarily outside of the urban areas. Lori Hennings, Planning Department, talked about rural research, some of which could be utilized in the urban setting. Councilor Liberty said their focus was modeling up from watersheds to develop data. He suggested pulling in Portland State University do some of the research that Metro needed

done. Ms. Hennings provided an overview of monitoring. She noted that you would have different goals for different watersheds. She suggested standardizing your data to your goals. She provided some examples of those kinds of measurements, which would need to be consistent. They would be looking at forest canopy, water health such as temperature, physical condition of the stream, utilizing GIS to measure the forest canopy. She spoke to pesticides and the cumulative impacts. She addressed what were we measuring, how did we measure it, what data already existed out there, how did we build capacity for local governments monitoring efforts to get what we needed, how did we make sense of the data, funding and timing. She suggested asking others to share their data such as universities, Clean Water Services, etc. She then spoke to building capacity and how you went about doing this. She suggested co-authoring grants to collect data. She talked about opportunities that come up for monitoring and suggesting partnering to get a big return on your money. Kate Marx, Public Affairs Director, asked about permitting and point source. Ms. Triplett responded to her question. Ms. Hennings added her comments about point source solutions.

Councilor Liberty said who paid attention to the data was as important as the data itself. He felt this was very important. Having some role for the broader public was very important. Ms. Hennings said they had formed an urban research consortium. They present every year on monitoring and research. They needed to map all of this information. She talked about utilizing the website to provide a storehouse of what everyone was doing. You click on a place on the map and it shows what groups were doing in that area and the contact information. Jim Desmond, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Director, talked about what people cared about and how you engaged the citizens. Ms. Hennings asked how much did we engage the public and how did you do so that they remained engaged.

Councilor Burkholder talked about a thermometer of how were we doing. What were a couple of measures that they could report back to the public? Chris Carlson, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, asked if they had been in touch with River Network, a grassroots effort around the United States. Ms. Triplett talked about capacity. What were people doing in the region and what did we know about the local capacity. It was important to identifying all of the groups that were active and what level of resources they had. Did they have an action plan, did they have a budget? She talked about strategizing once they knew where people currently were. They needed to know about all of the kinds of resources such as staffing, money, and knowledge so they could build capacity.

Councilor Park talked about realistic successes in 20 years. If we only looked at the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), you would always fail. Councilor Burkholder said what was the landscape that we actually were measuring. Councilor Park said they needed to know what they were really measuring. Councilor Liberty talked about showing how the metropolis was getting greener over time. Ms. Hennings said the historic data really wasn't there. There was some information. Paul Ketcham, Planning Department, talked about surveys in the 1950s on the kind of habitats that existed and percent covered. He said in the 1970s the US Corps did a detailed analysis of forest canopy and habitat in the urban area. He said much of the information was collected by other agencies. The data sources were out there. Metro needed to gather information that no one else was doing such as connectivity and green roofs. He talked about things that were tangible that people could relate to.

Councilor Burkholder asked about what they were thinking about in the central city area. Council President Bragdon talked about the ability to judge us including the paths not taken. There were multiple ways to look at successes. Ms. Triplett talked about alternative scenarios. Councilor Park said they wanted to make sure they weren't setting themselves up for failure. They were making

efforts and making it better to the best of our ability. Councilor Burkholder expressed concern about what the central city looked like on the map. It was important not to leave the area blank but target restoration efforts such as rain gardens. Councilor Newman said he hoped there were opportunities to measure monitoring with schools. Councilor Liberty talked about the green grants program and the opportunity to use these in the big white pork chop.

Chris Deffebach, Planning Department, talked about the regulatory piece to Nature in Neighborhoods initiative. She provided a handout on the policy issue. She talked about the notice which went out yesterday to the public. She then addressed the eight issues and asked that if any were interested in amendments, they would happy to draft them. Council President Bragdon talked about the timeline and suggested September 22nd for possible amendments and 29th for final consideration.. Ms. Deffebach spoke to the schedule, taking it to Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC). She walked through the list of issues that had come up (a copy of which is included in the record). Council talked about fee in lieu of mitigation approach. They suggested some minimum standards. Ms. Deffebach addressed habitat verification issues and options available. Councilors talked about the process and whether they should include an amendment concerning this issue. Ms. Deffebach then talked about maintaining mitigation areas after 5-year monitoring period and the choices available. Councilor Park suggested getting the five years under our belt before we determine whether to extend the period. Ms. Deffebach addressed item #4. Councilor Liberty further explained the issue. Paul Garrahan, Metro Assistant Attorney, added his comments.

Ms. Deffebach talked about item #5 about what new UGB areas should be required to protect upland habitat areas? Council felt that the majority of the Council did not want to include past UGB expansion but future. Ms. Deffebach talked about interim protection before regional program was acknowledged. Councilor Liberty said he would be interested if we were losing inventory currently. Ms. Hennings said they were losing some in the Damascus area. Council discussed whether they wanted to have a stronger role in determining compliance with the Functional Plan. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, talked about the compliance issue and history of the issue. Finally, should there be more flexibility for the rebuilding and remodeling of existing housing. Ms. Deffebach said Kelly Ross, Home Builders Association, brought this issue to staff. They had worked up several options. She noted the benefits and effects. Council President Bragdon said he might be interested in a Wilsonville or Portland amendment option. Ms. Deffebach handed out an information sheet about the ordinance (a copy of which is included in the meeting record).

Janelle Geddes, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, talked about the grant program. They planned administrative costs of 7%. She addressed the variety of partners that were currently out there. She noted that there were costs such as insurance that had to be addressed. Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, talked about Metro being able to do risk analysis in capacity building. Metro can also help with Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs). Councilor Burkholder talked about the Good Samaritan law and if they could look at state legislation to help support them in restoring habitat. Ms. Geddes said the goal was to get people on the ground. Councilor Burkholder asked how did we achieve many goals, how did we reach out to them. Ms. Geddes said they wanted to build capacity and get projects on the ground. Councilor Newman suggested that they make a requirement that every partner have to partner with a school group. Ms. Triplett said she had talked with Councilor McLain about getting schools involved. There were a lot ways to have schools present and be involved. They had decided to see what came in the door the first year before they set requirements. Councilor Park asked if building capacity or getting projects on the ground were more important or were of equal

value. Ms. Triplett talked about the timeline. Councilor Newman urged a multiplier effect through partnering.

Council President Bragdon suggested that there were philosophical issues for the Council to address. Should they focus on capacity or on the ground projects? Should they have large grants versus small? Should they be building relationship and lasting capacity. He suggested managing the conversation around the bigger issues. Councilor Liberty raised the issue of equity and the link to other programs. Council President Bragdon suggested talking about capacity. Ms. Triplett talked about the barriers of people being effective at this work. Councilor Liberty suggested getting some examples on the ground to create the excitement. Councilor Burkholder suggested dividing the money into a couple of large projects and several small ones. The first year needed to be a big splash. Council President Bragdon said he would be looking more towards capacity. He felt it would support the bond measure. You were getting people activated, which may be the more critical part of getting long-term effects. Councilor Park said \$1 million won't do much on the ground and this was really seed money for getting things going. He suggested having some good demonstration projects possibility one in each county. This put them in a position to go after the next bond measure. Council President Bragdon asked about the Kitzhauber conversation about building partnerships and coming in with some addition money long term. Ms. Triplett suggested awarding the first series of grants and see what they could get. Council President Bragdon suggested the Kitzhauber idea and how we could interface with that idea. Councilor Newman said he was the convener on the Milwaukie waterfront project. Council President Bragdon said he was hearing we were leaning towards the capacity building without losing the on the ground projects. Ms. Geddes said she thought they would get some really good on the ground proposals and they would be building on some existing projects. Council President Bragdon urged the need to build partnerships with this grant money. Mr. Desmond asked if they would be willing to pay for some facilitation of partnerships. Councilors discussed how they would allow facilitation.

Council President Bragdon talked about other programs within the structure of the program and links to the money such as illegal dumping. Councilors talked about the need for education and leveraging the money. Councilor Liberty summarized the links to former federal money, bond measure, and the regulatory program. Councilor Burkholder talked about equity and projects that would contribute to these issues. He suggested connecting back to the ratepayers. Council President Bragdon felt there was need to write the criteria so there was some equity rather than fixating on the habitat map. Councilors concurred with the suggestion. Ms. Henning talked about restoration in Class 1 and 2. Council President Bragdon raised the issue of the roles of schools. Councilor Newman suggested extra points to include schools. Councilor Burkholder raised the issues of large versus small grants. He weighed in on small grants as well as the need for a big bang. They talked about the multiplier effect.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2005

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
2.0	Memo	7/14/05	To: Metro Council, Jim Desmond and Michael Jordan From: Councilor Liberty Re: Grant and Local Match Brainstorming	080905c-01
2.0	Memo	8/3/05	To: Metro Council From: Chris Deffebach, Planning Department Re: Nature in Neighborhoods Policy Issues	080905c-02
2.0	Metro Monitoring	8/9/05	To: Metro Council From: Janelle Geddes, NIN, Re: Metro Monitoring of NIN program	080905c-03
2.0	Map	8/9/05	To: Metro Council From: Stacey Triplett, NIN Re: Watersheds and Habitat Resource Classes	080905c-04