

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty, Rod Park

Councilors Absent: Brian Newman (excused), Rex Burkholder (excused), Susan McLain (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:04 p.m.

1. **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 19, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Bragdon reviewed the January 19, 2006 Metro Council agenda.

2. **TUALATIN HILLS PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE**

Laura Price, Parks and Greenspaces, introduced the project team for the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD) Comprehensive Planning Process – THPRD Assistant General Managers Keith Hobson and Doug Menke, and project manager Sarah Cleek. Mr. Menke said that the comprehensive plan was originally adopted in 1997. They were a bit overdue for their 5-year review but hoped to be completed by Fall 2006. Stakeholders are very engaged. He described the process of preparing the plan and some of the other parties involved.

Mr. Menke reviewed the project elements – current and future facility and program needs, maintenance and operation standards and practices, financing mechanisms and revenue sources, trails plan, an action plan (goals, policies and actions), and maps. The plan will also try to take advantage of the latest technology. Mr. Hobson said that they are in the needs assessment phase of the plan. Key issues are anticipating future growth; seeing what is being done well now; looking at geographic needs; asking how recreational needs are changing, and how the THPRD should respond to these changes. They have a partnership program with Portland Community College (PCC) Rock Creek. He gave the examples of skate parks and a senior center as to how things have been changing. They are engaging with the community to respond to the changes.

Mr. Hobson recognized Metro's role as a regional provider of parks and trails. He asked how to best coordinate with Metro, to provide the most value to the taxpayer. They wanted to support the bond measure effort. He distributed a questionnaire to Councilors asking for their feedback, as well as the results of a recent phone survey (copies are included in the meeting record).

Councilor Hosticka had questions about how much area the THPRD covered, which Mr. Hobson discussed. Council President Bragdon asked about the needs assessment and how the demographics of the area were changing. How would these changes affect service requirements? Mr. Hobson said two major changes were – 1) Washington County is getting more lower-income population; and 2) There is more racial and ethnic diversity. Ms. Cleek said that the growth of the senior-age group was anticipated. Council President Bragdon asked what the implications for this were, what sorts of activities would be increased or reduced? Mr. Menke said it might be a bit

early to forecast at that level of detail. But he said the plan incorporated mechanisms for analyzing these data and reacting accordingly. Ms. Cleek said that a big question would be how to reach out to the new populations. Council President Bragdon asked if they had a sense of the longevity of people in the region, what were their attitudes towards recreational facilities? Were they more or less likely to be active consumers of recreational opportunities? Response was that the facilities currently are very heavily used and it was expected that the priorities would remain fairly similar.

Councilor Liberty asked about the questionnaire, which said that 63% of households did not have children. Mr. Menke said that the plan would include proposals to address this. Councilor Liberty talked about the connection of parks to trails. Did the plan include an analysis of the way that parks were connected to trails and roads? How much of an effort was being made to reach out to providers of clean water, for example? Mr. Menke said that the water quality issue was of critical importance. They were excited about the grant opportunities in the bond measure and were looking to work in a very partnered way with other stakeholders. He described some of the partnerships, both with other governmental agencies as well as with developers.

Councilor Park talked about the aging baby boomers, as well as the lower income levels. This would seem to be a conflicting set of data, since the boomers typically might have more income. Was this offset by the influx of lower-income residents? Mr. Menke said that they were anticipating some demographics from PSU that would help clarify. They were doing outreach to schools to find, for example, Spanish-speaking constituents. Councilor Park said it was kind of a tradeoff between the wealthier population, who might have different requests of the system than the lower-income residents.

Council President Bragdon asked Ms. Cleek whether she had any advice about the planning process, in view of the Zoo's upcoming master plan. Ms. Cleek responded that they were very much taking a team approach. They had a great consultant (Cogan Owens Cogan). She described some of the team members. Council President Bragdon said that Metro's main connection with the THPRD was via the natural areas. We did not have as big a stake in the "hard" recreational areas (swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.). Metro was facing challenges and opportunities in working with local districts to manage land and operate it. Metro owns a lot of land but is not always the best choice to manage it.

Councilor Park asked if the THPRD had anything similar to Blue Lake. Mr. Menke said no; their largest lake was 10 acres. Ms. Price said they had 300,000 users a year. Mr. Menke said there were trail systems, some fishing, nothing on the scale of Blue Lake or with the same mix of facilities. Ms. Price said that one of the results of the survey was a desire for more community. Councilor Park observed that the use of parks was of a higher minority demographic.

Council President Bragdon asked if they had any idea how many people came to use the facilities from outside the area. Mr. Hobson said it was about 10% of people signing up for paid activities.

3. BREAK

4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FOR THE INTERIM WASTE REDUCTION PLAN

Jan O'Dell and Karen Blauer, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, introduced the public involvement strategy for the Interim Waste Reduction Plan (IWRP). Ms. O'Dell distributed a timeline (a copy is included in the meeting record). Ms. Blauer said this was the third phase of

public involvement on a continuum of activities started over a year ago. It was designed to play a large role in shaping the issues and content. The first phase was a series of interviews between January and April 2004. They invited solid waste providers and users, about 40 people, to participate in focus groups. Phase 2 took place between August and September 2004. They hosted and facilitated "Let's talk trash," outreach to high schools, advisory committees, and Council. Three key issues were addressed: Do garbage and recycling services meet your needs? How much can we recycle? How can these principles guide solid waste handling? Ms. Blauer said the basic response was a high level of agreement that the current system is adequate but that recycling rates and services should be expanded to make more items eligible for pickup. They said residences and businesses could do more to recycle, that government agencies should lead by example, and that resource conservation should be the guiding principle. For the third and last phase, we wanted to incorporate these comments. They wanted to make sure the public has time to respond; there will be a 45-day official public comment period starting at the end of February 2006. The goal was to have a Metro Council resolution adopted around May 2006.

Ms. Blauer distributed a document outlining a web-based "virtual open house" (a copy is included in the meeting record). It was cost-effective compared to a bricks-and-mortar open house. All of the materials would be available printed, and there will also be targeted outreach, for example to small construction contractors. There will be links to our survey from other web sites, as well as news releases and e-mail outreach.

Councilor Liberty wondered why waste reduction and recycling were not treated separately. Ms. O'Dell said that waste reduction was the overall concept, and that it included recycling. Ms. Blauer said the wording on the actual web page could be reworked so it was more transparent to the survey participant. Councilor Liberty said that the public involvement in this case seemed to be different from what was taking place in land use planning. What are we getting out of this? What is the cost? Are we doing it as part of a state mandate? Ms. Blauer said we did have legal requirements and agency principles for public involvement. We had a legal requirement for a waste reduction plan. We weren't necessarily looking for legitimization of our policies, but more of a comment on the specific plan. Mike Hogle, Solid Waste and Recycling Director, added that the focus groups, surveys, workshops, and the gamut of new ideas in recycling and waste reduction was still fairly active. Some we liked and some we didn't. This was a way of responding to people who came to the workshops and show them the results of their comments. Ms. O'Dell said that we were going after getting a read on what people thought about this final draft, whether we were heading in the right direction.

Councilor Hosticka asked if we had any information on who responds to these types of outreach. Who are we talking about here? He would like to see some information on this. Why are they responding? Where do they live? Ms. Blauer said they did have some information about geographical location of respondents, and that they would continue to try to track information about the virtual open house. Councilor Hosticka said he was trying to understand, this is a new way to communicate – aging baby boomers might not respond on the web site. Ms. Blauer said she would work with the webmaster to see how much they could track the respondents.

Councilor Park mentioned some issues about the policy committee, especially bulky waste, and options for people without large vehicles. Are we able to see how satisfied people are, and whether they have the ability to get the information they need? Ms. Blauer said that we would try to tease out such issues. Ms. O'Dell said collection services were not a part of this project. Councilor Park was trying to get at how people got our information. Ms. Blauer said we had a small budget for advertisements, and we would be working with existing partners, to get people's

attention. Mr. Hoglund said he would work with staff to see if a level of satisfaction could be incorporated into the comments portion of the survey.

5. PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC HISTORY FALL PRACTICUM PRESENTATION

Becky Shoemaker, Records Officer, introduced Professor Bill Lang, Portland State University (PSU), and two undergraduate students, Stephanie O'Dell and Libby Coyner, who have participated in the program. Professor Lang described some of the background of the project. PSU liked to have their students contribute to an agency project while getting credit. He thanked Ms. Shoemaker for being so organized. He saw the program as an opportunity for PSU to make connections throughout the region. There was also a contribution to the graduate program. Based on their getting their toes wet, they wondered how to increase it.

Ms. Coyner said she worked on a project for the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) Collection. It was pretty tedious, but it was good to get the records more accessible to the public. Also, it was a good way to get practical experience. Getting the documents online would be great.

Ms. O'Dell worked on the Digital Archive of Metro Councilors project; they did oral histories with the Councilors as well as going through information that previous Councilors had left behind, making a Metro Councilor history. She agreed it was a huge undertaking, and a great experience, learning how to take an oral history, what questions to ask. She saw the benefits for Metro in the idea of increased transparency and accessibility to the public. Ms. Shoemaker said it was wonderful for her to mentor the students and give inspiration to enter the public history realm as practitioners. She would love to see the program continue. They have big ideas and goals, to achieve a comprehensive history of Metro as an agency.

Councilor Hosticka said the oral histories were very valuable. There is a lot that goes on that is never written down. By the time something is written down, a lot has taken place already. Also, he was curious about the digital archive – as technology evolves, you need specialized equipment to read it. Ms. Shoemaker said that the oral histories would be always provided in paper format. This was a challenge that archivists internationally were wrestling with. For Metro purposes, whatever we collect and preserve will always be preserved on acid-free paper for the next few centuries. Professor Lang added that there was a national debate about the use of digital information. A consensus seems to be that digital is currently the best way we have to transmit and save in various formats. The largest question right now is that we have too much information, we have more and more data than we can possibly deal with.

Councilor Park asked how this program interfaced with the PSU Urban Studies program. Ms. Shoemaker said that the CRAG records were of great interest to the urban studies department. Councilor Park philosophized about how best to capture the flavor of the decision-making that occurs here. Professor Lang said that that was one of the most fundamental questions – was it better to interview people in real time? Or to interview them later, when what's taken place has had time to acquire some context? Or both?

Councilor Liberty had a question about the CRAG records – were there any documents particularly interesting? Ms. Coyner said there were a lot of grant proposals, it was interesting to run across the beginning stuff of the bicycle paths, that interested her personally. She found the wording of certain things that would not be considered PC today! Councilor Liberty commented

on the sheer quantity of records. Our focus will change over time. How do we classify what we note in our records? Future historians will not replicate our efforts. We are determining the future of history by what we choose to keep and record.

Council President Bragdon asked if there had been any work done on press coverage of Metro? Not really. We do have some materials but they have never been analyzed.

6. FUNCTIONAL PLAN COMPLIANCE REPORT – 2005

Chief Operating Officer Michael Jordan introduced the compliance report, which focused on Title 11. Sherry Oeser, Planning Department, said that the process was required under code, to have a public hearing on the compliance report. She hoped to get a date for that hearing by the end of this meeting. After the hearing, if we needed to update or revise the report for any reason, we would do that, and Council would issue an order. The report is a snapshot in time. The decision was final unless appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). The report itself was intended to show who was in compliance and out of compliance, not to fix it. That was a separate action taken by Council. The other important use for the report is that jurisdictions used it to demonstrate their compliance. In 2004, there were some jurisdictions who were out of compliance in certain areas. A lot of this has been remedied by the jurisdictions. That's the good news. The bad news is, there are still jurisdictions out of compliance – West Linn, Lake Oswego, and Clackamas County. Overall compliance is very good.

Council President Bragdon observed that he was surprised to see Lake Oswego and West Linn out of compliance on Title 3/water quality. Also, that Beaverton and Gresham were out of compliance on Title 1/Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in centers. Staff and Council discussed the intent of Title 1 with regard to ADUs.

Councilor Park asked for some information on the yield of ADUs in the centers, what was the reality of obtaining more ADUs in already-dense areas? Ms. Oeser said that jurisdictions were asking some of the same questions. Council and staff discussed the requirements for ADUs and what options were available for jurisdictions to comply.

Council President Bragdon asked whether this information was already compiled. Was Title 11 the only thing hanging fire? Ms. Oeser said there were two jurisdictions technically out of compliance with Title 11 – Multnomah County and Washington County. She discussed other factors that might keep jurisdictions from being in compliance, such as lawsuits. Councilor Liberty asked whether some of the problems were technical or political. Ms. Oeser said in many instances they were political. Mr. Jordan said it was very complex, what with the intersection of local laws and such.

Councilor Liberty questioned the link between compliance and some of the other issues coming up, such as the bond measure. Would withholding money from the jurisdictions increase compliance?

Ms. Oeser looked ahead to some things coming up in 2006. Under Title 1/housing and employment, some jurisdictions have difficulty with employment capacity. They have trouble trying to figure out the employment capacity. There is a biannual progress report on centers due in April.

Mr. Jordan said that the Title 11 conundrum was Area 93 and Bethany; two different jurisdictions were responsible for the planning, yet the issues that come up around urban service delivery in those areas present a myriad of governance, land use, and finance issues. It is a hodgepodge of rules and laws. In some instances, the jurisdiction doing the planning will not be the provider of services. We may need to be more proactive in heading off these problems. Regarding the process, he proposed a regional partnership to discuss how to approach Bethany/Area 93. Interested Councilors may want to sit in on these meetings.

Councilor Liberty had some questions about the Housing Choices Task Force and Title 7 and how best to work this out. Also, how to address the willingness of jurisdictions to be in compliance, even with limited resources? Is there an attitudinal problem with some jurisdictions fighting compliance? He asked how much acreage was out of compliance? Ms. Oeser said, Bethany was by far the largest, about 800 acres. Council President Bragdon asked why Bethany didn't ask for an extension. Mr. Jordan said probably because we haven't put the heat on them. Councilor Liberty asked if any citizen-lead compliance was forthcoming. Dick Benner, Planning Department, was not aware of any.

Councilor Park said that, even if we enforce compliance on the planning, there's no way to enforce the provision of services. Mr. Jordan said our requirement was only to go through planning. Councilor Park wanted to see if we could separate out those who were willing but unable from those who just weren't willing. Council President Bragdon thought the extension process could be used for this. Council and staff discussed strategy for gaining better compliance. Could we use Area 93 as a test case? Mr. Benner talked about some of the history of how these things had been handled in the past. He had reason for optimism.

Lydia Neill, Planning, commented about Area 93, there was another half of same area that was not brought in. There was local resistance to bringing in the sloped area. We do create an expectation on the part of property owners when we make our decisions; this leads to some of the frustration when nothing happens, when the jurisdiction doesn't come into compliance. Councilor Park said maybe we needed to address the expectations more directly. Ray Valone, Planning, reminded Council that some of these strategies had been offered already and it didn't work out.

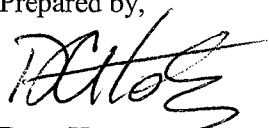
Mr. Jordan thought maybe another work session, with full Council or smaller group, would be helpful before the public hearing. He thought we had some options to work with but it would require a strategic view. Funding for the planning is a hot issue also.

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hotz
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JANUARY 17, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	1/19/06	Metro Council Agenda for January 19, 2006	011706c-01
2	Tualatin Hills	Not dated	TO: Metro Council FROM: THPRD RE: Comprehensive Plan 2006 Questionnaire	011706c-02
2	Tualatin Hills	December 2005	TO: Metro Council FROM: THPRD RE: Comprehensive Plan 2006 Telephone Survey	011706c-03
2	IWRP	Not dated	TO: Metro Council FROM: Solid Waste & Recycling RE: Process for public comment on Interim Waste Reduction Plan	011706c-04
2	IWRP	Not dated	TO: Metro Council FROM: Solid Waste & Recycling RE: Interim Waste Reduction Plan, Public involvement plan phase 3, web strategy-survey	011706c-05