

METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, April 6, 1998

Council Chamber

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Lisa Naito (Vice Chair), Ruth McFarland

Members Absent: None

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE MARCH 16, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Councilor Naito moved for adoption of the minutes of the March 16, 1998, Governmental Affairs Committee meeting.

Vote: Councilor McFarland, Naito and McLain voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 98-2631, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING A NOMINEE TO THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Aleta Woodruff, Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI), said MCCI has not been able to contact Dale Chambers, the nominee, as his phone number has been disconnected. Ms. Woodruff said MCCI mailed Mr. Chambers an invitation to next week's MCCI meeting, and if he attends the meeting she will notify Chair McLain to proceed with his application. Chair McLain agreed.

Ms. Woodruff said the MCCI Nominating Committee has begun reviewing old membership applications. She said she may ask the MCCI Historian to determine which applicants have served as members, and mail cover letters with new application forms to all applicants who have not served on MCCI.

Chair McLain removed Resolution No. 98-2631 from the agenda.

3. LOCAL PARTNERS FORUM PRESENTATION

Beth Anne Steele, Council Public Outreach Coordinator, updated the committee on plans for the Local Partners' Forum. She said the forum will include seminar and discussion groups, and will be held on the evening of Wednesday, April 29, and morning of Saturday, May 2, 1998. She said the intent of the forum is to bring together all of Metro's local partners both inside and immediately outside of the Metro region, in order to update them on Metro issues and to increase the spirit of cooperation. Ms. Steele said invitations were mailed last week to 350 people. She told Chair McLain she had received her message regarding school board members and superintendents, and will mail them invitations shortly.

Ms. Steele reviewed the format of the forum. She said the discussion groups will be led by co-moderators, and staff will take notes. She said she will produce a report in the summer which includes both the discussion notes and participants' survey responses. Ms. Steele asked the committee for comments on the list of suggested discussion topics. A copy of the list of suggested discussion topics is included in the meeting record. Ms. Steele reviewed the time line for the forum preparation. She said the Council paid to mail the invitations. She asked if the committee wants to serve food at the forums.

Councilor Naito complimented Ms. Steele on an excellent planning job. She asked if invitations were mailed to State Representatives and Senators. Ms. Steele said invitations were sent to State Legislators in the Metro region.

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Councilor Naito said political candidates may have questions about Metro. She asked if they had been invited. Ms. Steele said Nancy Goss Duran, Executive Analyst, is organizing a similar program for candidates. She said she and Ms. Goss Duran are incorporating the two programs as much as possible, and have agreed that if candidates are not able to attend Ms. Goss Duran's forum, they will be directed to the Local Partners' Forum.

Councilor Naito asked how much it would cost to serve food, and said she would contribute money from her budget. Ms. Steele said it would be impossible to predict until the registration forms have been received. She said she hopes to have 100 participants in each seminar.

Chair McLain recommended mailing invitations to school board members and superintendents in the tri-county area, rather than in all five counties. She said coffee, juice and rolls were served at the forum last year. She offered money from her budget to help purchase refreshments.

Councilor Naito said it is important to serve something, such as little sandwiches and donuts. She asked if Clark County elected officials had been invited to the forum. Ms. Steele said yes.

4. ETHICS CODE UPDATE

Chair McLain said the ethics code ordinance has been put on hold. She said Presiding Officer Jon Kvistad has requested additional work on the ordinance and has asked for a report from Alexis Dow, Metro Auditor. Chair McLain said Ms. Dow told her she is still comfortable with the ordinance, but would like to review any major amendments. Chair McLain said she has spoken at length on two occasions with Mike Burton, Metro Executive Officer, about the ethics ordinance. He has sent a memo to all department heads requesting comments on the ordinance, and has heard back from Judy Gregory, Director of Human Resources, and from the manager of the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Committee (MERC). Chair McLain said Dan Cooper, General Counsel, is reviewing their concerns, and expects to finish his review by Wednesday, April 8. She said she will bring any proposed amendments to the committee for informal review, and the committee can decide how it wishes to act on the amendments.

Councilor Naito asked if Mr. Cooper is aware of two items which need additional clarification: the definition of family as immediate family, and a clear separation of the ethics ordinance from regulations governing campaign contributions.

Chair McLain said legal counsel is reviewing the document to ensure that any proposed amendments will clarify, rather than confuse, the code. She said legal counsel will clarify that campaign contributions are not addressed by the ethics code.

5. OUTREACH SURVEY REPORT

Meg Bushman, Council Analyst, said she sent a memo to the Councilors asking specific questions about holding meetings in their districts and about how they would like to organize the joint meetings with advisory groups. She said she has not yet received any response.

Councilor Naito said she is preparing a response that if she chooses to request a meeting in her district, she will discuss it directly with Presiding Officer Kvistad. She recommended that staff compose a memo to all of the advisory groups with which the Council has agreed to meet, suggest possible meeting dates, and negotiate with the advisory groups to set up the meetings.

Chair McLain said she will work with staff. She asked Ms. Bushman to follow up her memo with a personal call to each of the Councilors. Chair McLain said she spoke with Christina Billington, Council Office Manager/Clerk of the Council, and Ms. Billington would like to know as soon as possible if there will be meetings in Councilors' districts, so that staff can begin planning the logistics and budget.

Councilor Naito said there is available space for meetings in existing facilities that may not cost much money. She asked if the City of Gresham charges for the use of its city hall.

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Councilor McFarland said she believes the Gresham City Hall is available free of charge, however there are additional expenses that need to be budgeted, such as staff time, food, transportation, and security.

Chair McLain said it is important to schedule now because a number of facilities are scheduled up to a year in advance. She asked Ms. Bushman to report to the committee at the next meeting.

Councilor Naito said there may be trouble organizing all of the evening meetings in Councilors' districts because the agenda for May 9, 1998, is full, and there will only be two more evening Council meetings in 1998. She recommended granting Councilors' requests for evening meetings in their districts on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chair McLain and Councilor McFarland both requested evening meetings in their districts.

Councilor Naito said evening meetings in outlying districts can be a positive outreach effort, even if they are not well attended.

Chair McLain asked Ms. Bushman to draft a letter to the advisory groups from the committee, signed by the chair, asking for their suggestions on how to plan joint meetings with the Council.

Chair McLain said the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) is holding a meeting on April 9, 1998, to discuss long-term regional funding strategies and Metro's budget as it relates to land use issues. She thanked Councilors Naito and McFarland for their participation in the meeting and said MPAC appreciates the Council's involvement.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Naito said it is time to begin work on next session's legislative packet so that Metro's agenda can be finalized in the fall.

Chair McLain asked Ms. Bushman to contact the manager of each department and request both a short and long list of potential upcoming items in the next legislative session.

Councilor Naito said transportation is still a top priority. She said she has spoken with Councilor Ed Washington, and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and Council Transportation Committee keep the Governmental Affairs Committee updated on their work.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 1:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers
Council Assistant

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 6, 1998

The following have been included as part of the official public record.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
Local Partners Forum	4/6/98	Metro Partnership Matters: Possible Discussion Topics for Small Group: Transportation, Neighboring Cities, Land Use, Schools & Parks, Regional Facilities	040698ga-01

Oral Testifiers (testimony cards included)

Resolution No. 98-2631

Aleta Woodruff