

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 5, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

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

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

Acting Council President Rex Burkholder convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Council President Burkholder reviewed the September 7, 2006 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Park discussed implications of his proposal on establishing Metro Council policy regarding the acquisition of rural agricultural land. He thanked the team that had worked on the proposal. Councilor Newman spoke briefly to the two Zoo ordinances.

Kathy Rutkowski, Finance and Administrative Services, provided an overview of the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) required hearing on the proposed bond measure coming up on Thursday. She distributed a handout (a copy is included in the meeting record) and said she looked forward to a positive discussion. The questions from TSCC should be pretty straightforward.

Mike Hoglund, Solid Waste Director, discussed several upcoming milestones regarding transport contracts. One of the contractors had requested to operate without a performance bond while they attempted to get it renewed. This was subject to Council approval. Mr. Hoglund summarized negotiations with the contractor and discussed options in case their request was denied.

Councilor Newman asked about the financial implications. Mr. Hoglund described Metro's rights to be fairly compensated. Councilor Liberty wondered why the contractor was unable to obtain the performance bond. Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney, described the financial and legal details. Mr. Hoglund felt the contractor had made some mistakes in their own negotiating that were now causing problems. It was not an entirely unexpected situation. Mr. Jordan felt that Metro was in a good position to continue to deliver service.

Councilor Park asked for specifics on the appraisal of the value of the contractor's assets. Mr. Cooper responded that there had just been the one appraisal. Mr. Hoglund agreed that a second appraisal might be helpful. Councilor Liberty asked for clarification on the extent of the contractor's business dealings, which Mr. Hoglund and Mr. Cooper provided. Acting Council President Burkholder stressed the importance of providing uninterrupted service.

2. HOUSING CHOICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND HOUSING FINANCE STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Gerry Uba, Planning Department, provided a housing update. He reviewed the previous Council action around housing choice and discussed the work that had been done in implementing the

Council's wishes. He talked about the disposition of the funds that Council had approved for the program. He introduced Robert Wolcheski, recently arrived from Washington, D.C., as the new (temporary) staff person for the program. Mr. Uba stated that the housing finance study was currently on hold until after the November elections.

Regarding the Housing Choice Policy Advisory Committee (HOCPAC), Mr. Uba asked for feedback from Council. He went over HOCPAC's charge and committee representation. He referred to Council's desire to tie in housing to the New Look. He felt the timing of the New Look was ahead of where the housing analysis was at right now. He was concerned that the housing work could potentially upset the New Look timetable. He talked about some of the challenges in finding committee members and reviewed questions for Council. Mr. Uba highlighted some of the proposed rules of engagement for HOCPAC and emphasized that it was not to be a policy-making body. He had worked to integrate HOCPAC into Metro's other goals and committees. He called out some of the important directions he was seeking from Council.

Acting Council President Burkholder felt it was important to get some policy going as early in the process as possible, even if that meant starting with an *ad hoc* group and adding members over time. Council discussed the timeline of the New Look and the chances to integrate HOCPAC into the equation. Mr. Jordan felt the sooner that HOCPAC got up and running, the better. They talked about various ways to get timely advice on these questions. Councilor Park thought that representation from schools would be a helpful addition to the committee. He also had a concern about the perception that Metro was requiring unfunded mandates. Mr. Jordan talked about the role of compliance reports from the jurisdictions.

Councilor Newman felt that the more HOCPAC could integrate its work into the New Look, without requiring a separate track, the better. He would prefer to get a formal group up and running, within two months if possible. He also shared thoughts regarding the composition of the group. Council President Bragdon stressed his concern that areas across the border and in outlying areas be included. Councilor Burkholder wondered if staff from local jurisdictions, rather than elected officials, would be more likely to show up to meetings. Councilor Liberty thought smaller was better than larger for the group. He wanted people who would come up with projects that could get done on the ground, not fantasies. He would prefer to see a breadth of experience on the committee, instead of widespread categories. He wanted to start getting advice as quickly as possible, whether from the formal committee or not.

Council President Bragdon preferred to have the appointment more closely in Council control, rather than by the interest groups themselves. Council overall would prefer to see a mix of expertise over a list of categories.

3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Uba then updated Council on the Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG), which Metro helped to form in 1993. Some excellent work had come out of the group, which had been nationally recognized. September was National Emergency Preparedness Month. Even before September 11, 2001, there was a recognition that our region could benefit from better emergency planning, especially in regards to earthquakes and floods. He talked about some of the results of the work that had been done over the past 13 years. Emergency routes had been developed, and a guide to natural hazards had been published. Councilor Liberty commented that he had observed a lot of individual agency preparation and not a lot of inter-agency coordination. Mr. Uba felt that

things had improved lately. Substantial federal funds had been acquired. He also talked about the work that was ongoing.

Councilor Burkholder asked what kind of state and federal support had been forthcoming. Did Metro need to add this to its legislative agenda? Mr. Uba talked about the difficulty in promoting a sense of urgency, when a disaster was not imminent. He felt we ought to capitalize on the funds that were available. Councilor Burkholder emphasized the importance of building redundancy into systems, such as transportation systems. Mr. Uba agreed that it was hardly possible to overestimate the importance of things like bridges. Councilor Liberty observed that, after a major disaster, the tendency was to rebuild what had been there before. He would like to see work done regarding reconstruction planning. What would a reconstruction authority look like?

Mr. Uba went over a few more highlights of REMG's agenda, and the implications for Metro. Bill Jemison, Metro Risk Manager, talked about the status of Metro and Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) facility emergency plans—such as medical response and building evacuation. The Oregon Zoo did the same and added plans for animal escape. The transfer stations and hazardous waste facility also had to deal with potential toxic releases. Metro's emergency operations plan was designed to respond to significant injuries or deaths and facility closure (such as with ice and snow). It was modeled on the incident command system used by law enforcement. Mr. Jemison then talked about the communications; these would rely on the existing infrastructure.

Councilor Liberty asked if the use of Expo Center or the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) as refuges had been considered. And what about emergency generators? Mr. Jemison said he was not aware that those facilities had been mentioned in regional discussions. Julie Reed, OCC, added that Metro was generally well prepared for the typical industry emergencies, but not so well for major catastrophes. Mr. Uba said that Metro staff had been involved in the regional emergency planning, and he felt that our resources were being made available. There was an expectation that any government resources would be pressed into service.

Mr. Uba observed that the last formal Council REMG liaison was appointed in 2003. Council President Bragdon agreed to see if he could find a willing body to serve. Councilor Burkholder felt a fuller discussion by the Council regarding Metro policy in this area would be beneficial. Mr. Uba mentioned the option of Metro applying for state grant money as a resource.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Burkholder talked about the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) prioritization process. There had been a lively discussion with the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC). Ted Leybold, MTIP manager, distributed three handouts (a copy of each is included in the meeting record). Councilor Burkholder was concerned about the amount of cuts that were being proposed. He felt that that was a major policy shift and that it would damage a lot of the regional programs. He reviewed a few additions to the recommendations, from TPAC, and staff's recommendations. Mr. Leybold emphasized that he was following past practices, since there was no official policy yet.

Councilor Park wondered about the politics behind the recommendations. Mr. Leybold felt the representation on the group had been fairly broad. Council asked, were they trying to move from programs to projects? Mr. Leybold said yes. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, felt that the

planning was the minor issue. The major issues were programmatic—Regional Transportation Options, Transit-Oriented Development, etc.

Council achieved some clarity on the politics. Councilor Park asked if there had been any consensus on the part of the six citizen members of TPAC. Mr. Leybold said he had been surprised that one of the citizen members had actually wanted a broader look at the programmatic portion. Councilor Burkholder asked if staff's direction was more or less okay. Council agreed.

Councilor Liberty said we were basically defending an opportunity to make a decision on the whole proposal. Councilor Park said this had been an earlier fear, that the funds would be cannibalized.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hötz

Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	9/7/06	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, September 7, 2006	090506c-01
1	COO	9/5/06	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: TSCC Hearing on Proposed Natural Area Bond Measure	090506c-02
4	Briefings	9/5/06	To: Metro Council From: Ted Leybold Re: Transportation Priorities First Cut List Recommendation	090506c-03
4	Briefings	8/30/06	To: Metro Council From: Ted Leybold Re: 2007 Transportation Priorities and 2008-11 MTIP, Calendar of Activities	090506c-04
4	Briefings	9/5/06	To: Metro Council From: Ted Leybold Re: Draft Metro Staff Recommendations	090506c-05