

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Carl Hosticka (Deputy Council President), Rod Park, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (excused), Brian Newman (excused), Susan McLain (excused)

Deputy Council President Hosticka convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:06 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Council President Hosticka reviewed the October 26, 2006 Metro Council agenda. Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, indicated that Thursday's executive session may not be needed depending on how negotiations proceed. Mr. Jordan updated Council on space issues within Metro Region Center. Payroll and Benefits having been moved under Human Resources, it was desirable to house them contiguously. He reviewed potential scenarios. The move would require a budget amendment, coming from the general fund contingency. If the bond measure passed, additional space would be required for new Parks staff.

2. RECAP/NEW INITIATIVES FOR NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Stacey Triplett, Nature in Neighborhoods Manager, thanked the Councilor program liaisons, project volunteers, and departmental staff. She distributed a chronological review of the past 18 months (a copy is included in the meeting record). She reviewed the distribution of restoration and enhancement funds; the second round of grants opened recently. Councilor Burkholder asked how the community enhancement grants worked. Ms. Triplett responded by diagramming programmatic relationships between Metro's different departments. She talked about water quality project, outreach, and monitoring efforts. She was excited about the Data Resource Center's new pattern recognition software. In terms of action on the ground, Ms. Triplett listed the projects and partnerships that had been developed throughout the region. She elicited Council suggestions on how to break into Home Builders Association trade shows.

3. COOPER MOUNTAIN UPDATE

Jim Desmond, Parks Director, went over the history of acquiring the park sites. He spoke about skyrocketing construction costs. Fortunately, no particular level of development had been promised. At Cooper Mountain, decisions had to be made about the type of experience we wanted visitors to have. Also, how "green" did we want the project to be? He referred to a handout showing some design concepts (a copy is included in the meeting record). Councilor Burkholder asked who our partners would be on this site. Mr. Desmond said there was no financial partner on the capital side; there were some possibilities for programming and operations. Councilor Park felt that Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification should be pursued. Mr. Desmond mentioned some of the tradeoffs that would involve.

Lora Price, Senior Regional Planner, displayed some diagrams of the master plan and some design concepts for the trail heads. She described the overall geography and condition of the site. She explored some of the advantages of the various designs and talked about the tradeoffs in Phases I and II. She described the potential for environmental design and education. One concept would be to implement a phased design and implementation that could be built upon as funds allowed. It was decided that the existing 1100 square-foot house on the site could not be re-used. She talked about the need to have Council direction in order to instruct the design team into the next step. She stated that hard cost information would be available in a few months.

Councilor Burkholder emphasized the need to stay within budget for this project. He preferred to focus on access and the trail system before considering any facilities. He supported a phased implementation. Deputy Council President Hosticka said Council also needed to decide how to divide \$6 million amongst the three parks. Heather Nelson Kent, Community Outreach Manager, said that their previous experience was that a lack of substantive facilities made it hard to attract visitors, volunteers, and programs. This could be an opportunity to showcase the Metro brand in Washington County. Council supported the concepts but acknowledged financial constraints.

Mr. Desmond said today's presentation was intended to lay some groundwork, so that when hard numbers were presented in the future, there would be some context for Council decision-making. Councilor Liberty said it was hard for Council to set a budget for a single project, without seeing the needs for the other two. Mr. Desmond talked about the equestrian group—small but highly organized and vocal; this would be a tough tradeoff if their needs were not addressed. Deputy Council President Hosticka thought it would be helpful for Council to see some costs on a basic, medium, and advanced plan; Councilor Burkholder asked to see the three parks planned in a coordinated way so that they could re-allocate money accordingly. Council consensus was not to short-change any of the parks, that there was some minimal level of facilities that was needed, and to analyze what the structure meant for the use of the park.

4. BREAK

Eliminated in the interests of time.

5. STANDARDS FOR MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRFs) AND DRY WASTE RELOADS

Councilor Park gave an update on the current situation and the need to set some new standards. Mike Hogle, Solid Waste & Recycling Director, talked about the rationale behind the moratorium and the operational and design standards that Council had directed staff to prepare. He emphasized how the standards had been designed to meet Council goals and objectives, starting with a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is included in the meeting record). It showed key dates for the standards to be adopted and implemented and for the moratorium to be lifted. Roy Brower, Regulatory Affairs Manager, talked about some recent MRF applications and their relative merits. He recapped the licensing process and the experience that had been used to identify best practices. Bill Metzler, Senior Solid Waste Planner, gave some examples of MRFs that met or exceed the proposed standards. Issues were dust and debris, contamination, insufficient capacity, and prohibited waste. These problems were much worse at uncovered sites. He reviewed some recent MRF applications. Many were from facilities that were not close to meeting the standards. The standards were broken down into the areas of general performance goals, performance standards, design requirements, and operating requirements. Councilor Burkholder asked about regulation of facilities that were not designated MRF facilities but that

basically had similar processes occurring on site. Mr. Brower responded that this was not part of the current review. Council and staff discussed the different types of disposal and how to coordinate regulation amongst the various government levels. Mr. Brower said his goal was to move the performance goals into code language. Mr. Hoglund spoke to the process his group had used to develop the goals. Councilor Park stressed the importance of Metro having the authority to enforce its standards. Mr. Brower described the coordination that had taken place with other agencies. Council supported the performance goals as written and encouraged staff to continue to work towards implementation.

6. POLICY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Reed Wagner, Policy Supervisor, distributed a summary of Council concepts (a copy is included in the meeting record). He summarized the implementation of Council's wish for more policy support and the restructuring of Council and Chief Operating Officer staff to achieve that. His question for Council was whether they were getting enough policy support. The policy associates and operations intern introduced themselves. Mr. Wagner talked about the way the program had been set up and the changes that he wanted to see take place this year. Primarily, he was encouraging more direct links between the Council Policy Coordinators and the policy associates. He spoke to the goals of the policy program and how the changes would make it more effective. He talked about training opportunities. How did Council see the program and how did they see opportunities for improvement?

Councilor Burkholder felt the current structure was superior to any of the previous situations. He did wonder how well the rest of the agency understood how things worked, whether the role of the coordinators was well understood. Basically, clarification and communication of roles was still needed. Could the policy coordinators be more of the Councilor's proxies? Overall, the quality of the interns and the work produced was excellent. Councilor Liberty had some questions about the definitions of what projects were in the incubation phase and which had already hatched. Mr. Wagner responded that he had wanted to identify all the projects that the interns had contributed to. Deputy Council President Hosticka felt the list was illustrative, not exhaustive. Mr. Jordan asked that Council give feedback on how they preferred to use their support staff. Councilor Burkholder expressed a wish to see the Policy Coordinators do more policy work and less meeting scheduling, for example. Deputy Council President Hosticka said this had been an area of struggle for many years; the current situation was a great move in the right direction.

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Liberty talked about some conversations he'd been having on non-structural solutions to transportation problems. He also mentioned his visit to the Denver headquarters hotel and its attendant redevelopment district.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Hosticka adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Prepared by



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
OCTOBER 24, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	10/26/06	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, October 26, 2006	102406c-01
2	Nature in Neighborhoods	10/24/06	To: Metro Council From: Stacey Triplett Re: Nature in Neighborhoods timeline	102406c-02
3	Cooper Mountain	October 2006	To: Metro Council From: Jim Desmond Re: Design concept schematics	102406c-03
5	MRFs	10/24/06	To: Metro Council From: Mike Hogle Re: PowerPoint presentation	102406c-04
6	Policy Program	10/24/06	To: Metro Council From: Reed Wagner Re: 2005-2006 Council Concept Summaries	102406c-05