

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 31, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 2, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the November 2, 2006 Metro Council agenda.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PLAN AND FUNCTIONAL PLAN: HOUSING

Gerry Uba, Planning Project Manager, talked about the existing jurisdictional reporting requirements. Many jurisdictions have had trouble meeting the requirements. The Housing Choice Task Force (HCTF) was convened to address these issues. One recommendation was to make changes to the functional plan and framework plan. Under the framework plan, the focus was on providing tools to meet the goals and on integrating housing with other Metro policies. He described the proposed housing fund. Council and staff debated whether housing was already part of regional growth management. Councilor Liberty wished to make housing a more visible component of all planning. Council wanted a better definition of "regional growth management." Mr. Uba agreed to rework the language. Under 1.3.7, Councilor Park questioned the singling out of urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion as an opportunity for housing agreements. Councilor Burkholder said it was because that was a government action that Metro controlled. Councilor Newman wondered how these would be enforced. Councilor Liberty said it was intended to offer something that landowners wanted, that Metro could provide. Council President Bragdon said, if we were to negotiate with individual landowners, we didn't want it to become a beauty contest, with developers coming to show off their plans. He and Councilor Park thought it could lead to individual property negotiations. Councilor Liberty felt it was intended to be more of a charge to local governments, to offer this tool to allow them to do it; their choice of how to proceed could be different. Councilor Burkholder said the intention was to capture something from people who benefited hugely from the UGB expansion. The tradeoff would be to require some housing work. Council President Bragdon noted that there was a whole range of things that Metro would like to get in exchange for bringing land into the UGB. He felt the issue as written was problematic and would lead to too much horse-trading.

Dick Benner, Metro Attorney, talked about negotiating agreements and imposing conditions. The goal was to use this as a factor to get developers to incorporate Metro values. Council suggested some wording that might address the issue. They talked about adding discretionary land use decisions to the toolbox. Mr. Benner said this tool could also be used to encourage preferred development, in exchange for zoning or something. Overall, Council preferred a bit more generic language, in 1.3.7 as well as 1.3.8. Under 1.3.1.c, Councilor Park felt the term "provide" was a bit strong. That could be an opportunity for the locals to explain why they couldn't do it. Councilor

Burkholder thought the use of the term “appropriate” could be helpful. Mr. Benner observed that similar language was found in other parts of the code. Council agreed to take out 1.3.1.c. Councilor Newman and Council President Bragdon were again concerned about being in too direct a negotiating relationship with landowners. Council President Bragdon wondered if 1.3.8 was saying that this requirement was contrary to the promises made with the construction excise tax. Council overall agreed on the bigger goals but debated the wording. Mr. Benner summarized that the policy should be broader in scope, and the wish to make affordable housing a value that needed more attention, not necessarily the one that took highest precedence over others. Councilor Liberty suggested that something be added to 1.3.9, explaining why Metro cared about poverty. Also, a more precise definition of “affordable housing” should be incorporated.

Mr. Uba reviewed the framework plan. This had been almost completely reworked and was waiting for the results of the Housing Choice Policy Advisory Committee. Council and staff talked about the reporting requirements and deadlines. They had a few suggested improvements to the language. Councilor Park felt it was important to let people know that a lot of this reporting was required by the state. Staff talked about the state mandates and how Metro’s code was written to address them. They talked about what was already under Title 1. Mr. Benner thought we could also address Title 1 to include the Council’s wishes in this code language. Councilor Liberty didn’t want to lose sight of the fact that housing choice was more of a problem for families earning less than the median income. Mr. Uba mentioned that the New Look might include changes to Title 1; that would be a chance to address housing policy. He also looked at technical assistance. The work would be taken to the next Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting. Mr. Benner asked if they wanted to see the revised language before then. Councilor Liberty said he would like to see it; he would alert Council if he saw any red flags.

3. REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE DEBRIEF

Council President Bragdon felt overall it was positive. There was no agreement on getting money for 2040 or consensus on the legislative agenda. Staff was proposing that Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager, continue meeting with his counterparts to see if there were ways to put the six elements into some type of legislative form. Council shared their feedback on the roundtable. Councilor Hosticka had some confusion about next steps but thought that it had been a positive discussion overall. Councilor Newman felt they had achieved consensus that the region was growing, and that it would cost money. He felt there was less consensus about where the money would come from and go to. Councilor Park said it was a good event. He would have liked to see a broader regional representation. Councilor Burkholder came away with questions about our financial ability to achieve our goals. Councilor Liberty felt it was an overly ambitious agenda. He felt it was important to keep a lot of things going and not just bank on one big proposal that might not work out.

4. BREAK

5. FY 2007-08 PRIORITIES/PROGRAM BUDGET DISCUSSION

Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator, and Jeff Tucker, Finance Manager, submitted a revised version of the 2007-08 strategy proposals (a copy is included in the meeting record). Labor Negotiator Kevin Dull served as emcee. Mr. Tucker asked Council to identify the five main proposals they wished to discuss today. Mr. Dull pointed out that, in the packet, there were several summaries, on expenses, and where the money could come from for the strategy proposals.

Councilor Newman asked to talk about his first choice, Reinvesting in the Oregon Zoo. He said that the Zoo's surplus this year had gone into the general fund. He would like to pursue a more systematic way to support the Zoo, even during less profitable years. He made some suggestions for how to let the zoo keep some of its "profits" to invest in its needs. Councilor Burkholder approved of the strategic planning process taking place at the Zoo. He felt this would drive a lot of the decisions. He thought Oregon Zoo admission was a bargain. He was leery about changing the fund structure again so soon after setting up the general fund. He liked the concept of a performance bonus. Councilor Newman said he was thinking more about a strategy than a particular fund. Council debated how the Zoo was considered and treated as a part of Metro. Council President Bragdon supported the idea of rewarding good management. He felt taking care of what we already had was the most important thing. Councilor Park pointed up the importance of keeping to consistent policy – would we set aside a percentage of profits from the solid waste revenue? Councilor Hosticka asked about the nature of the conversation. Was it question and answer, or debate about the merits? Mr. Dull said, mostly question and answer, but some policy choice opportunities as well. Mr. Tucker said there would be another meeting in two weeks to get to the meat. Today was intended to identify the policy options, next time would be to define the details. Councilor Liberty agreed the Zoo had real needs and that the Zoo was an integral part of Metro. His first priority would be the quarantine facility, then primate house. Councilor Hosticka said he thought Council was giving the Council President guidance for putting together the budget; Councilors could bring forward amendments in April when the budget would be passed. Council debated the value of the process and how they could get the most out of it. Councilor Liberty suggested that the questions and answers be done electronically and informally. Mr. Tucker noted that the name of the project manager was listed at the top of every proposal. He also offered a discussion based around funding sources. Mr. Dull said his concept coming in was to generally prioritize.

Councilor Park wanted to know how the proposals that did not get a lilac mark next to them would be discussed. Mr. Stringer felt today's exercise was an opportunity for Council to weigh in to Council President Bragdon on some of their viewpoints, not necessarily to thrash out every detail. Discussion proceeded according to the number of checkmarks next to each proposal, starting with New Regional Transportation Investments and Programs, Scoping Phase. Councilor Liberty said his goal here was to incorporate transportation earlier into the planning process. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, indicated that it was a response to past criticisms of the transportation practices; he said we did not have all the answers for the 18 different corridors, but we were through about eight of them; maybe we needed to develop a different focus. The streetcar and regional rails were a component of a regional transportation plan. Maybe there would be others. Councilor Liberty said it might be arterials. He hoped that, as a result of the scenarios, we could see systemwide investments.

Council talked next about Urban Performance Based Growth Management Decisions Support. Mr. Cotugno said it was intended to follow up on one of the elements taken from the regional forum last week; if we were going to base the 20-year forecasting approach more on the real world, we had to define what that was. Councilor Liberty wondered if there was overlap between this area and objective Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) measurements.

Council and staff then discussed Farmland Reserve and New Infrastructure Finance. Councilor Liberty defined it as opinion research. In regards to High Capacity Transit and Streetcar System Plan, Mr. Cotugno said it was intended to respond to concerns about streetcar studies, such as how did the streetcar projects fit into a broader regional plan? Also to recognize that the Milwaukie corridor was the last of the projects under the old plan. It was time to figure out the

next generation of projects and set priorities. Councilor Burkholder said we had money set aside in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for corridor study. Mr. Cotugno added that we anticipated getting a match. Councilor Liberty asked if it included bus service. Mr. Cotugno replied that it had not yet been fully scoped. Councilor Liberty continued with observations about operational costs and integration. Also, the City of Portland was planning a streetcar system; Mr. Cotugno reported that the studies were being integrated.

Funding for Centers Implementation was discussed next. Mr. Cotugno said the thrust would be to provide focused technical assistance, trying to leverage Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) projects. Councilor Park wondered about performance measures. Councilor Burkholder said it dovetailed nicely with housing choice technical assistance. Council and staff discussed the integration of our resources.

Councilor Liberty had some questions about Urban and Rural Reserve Implementation. Councilor Hosticka thought it should be less map-based and be more proactively supportive of agriculture. Council President Bragdon questioned the request for additional staff. Mr. Cotugno said it was hard to decide how to allocate. Councilor Liberty noted that a lot of it was contracted services. Councilor Park stated that Council had agreed that the six elements were a package, not a menu. If the remaining elements were part of the package, which ones were outside of that? Councilor Liberty said the budget for the RTP was kind of fixed—it had criteria and measurements; he'd like to talk to staff to talk about new programs and projects.

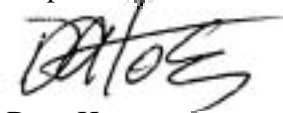
Moving to some environmental health proposals, Jim Desmond, Parks Director, said there was an over-arching theme in Nature in Neighborhoods outreach; there were two ways to grow the program. One was to assist local governments with things like better storm water plans, supporting green building, and allowing porous sidewalks. The other included programmatic ideas that were more new citizen programs, such as hero awards. This would definitely require additional staff. As far as outreach expansion, we had a lot of feedback from local governments that they would love to see more of that from us. Under continuing the grant program, Jim Morgan, Parks Manager, said that a little seed money could go a long way.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka said the regional leadership initiative tomorrow was going to have a speaker, Sheila Sheinberg, talking about leadership. Councilors were welcome.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Prepared by



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
OCTOBER 31, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	11/2/06	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, November 2, 2006	103106c-01
5	Strategy proposals	10/26/06	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski and Jeff Tucker Re: 2007-08 Strategy Proposals	103106c-02