

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

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

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 16, 2006/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the November 16, 2006 Metro Council agenda. There will also be a meeting of the Council of Economic Advisers that day.

2. REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RSWMP) POLICY DISCUSSION

Janet Matthews, Solid Waste and Recycling Program Manager, distributed a handout on disposal system issues (a copy is included in the meeting record). She reviewed milestones and the timeline of work to date. She sought Council feedback on the major issues for policy development and system performance goals. Councilor Liberty asked for more definition of “regionally balanced.” Councilor McLain added that those goals had already been voted on. The interim RWSMP had been approved. “Regionally balanced” referred to facility location and access. Council accepted the system performance goals.

Tom Chaimov, Solid Waste Planner, reviewed major issues for the disposal system, including waste allocation and public pricing policies. Metro’s role was as a price leader, yet our pricing policies made us more sensitive to where tonnage flows went. A facility’s tip fee would go up if more services were offered, but Metro’s tip fee would go up if someone else did the same service. In terms of private pricing practices, these tended to be the price followers. There was a question about whether private facility prices accurately reflected their costs. Other issues were price transparency and the ability of local governments to provide and regulate services. Under vertical integration vs. waste reduction, the profit motive may be inconsistent with practices for waste recovery. The role of competition has seen a lot of discussion but no consensus on performance measures. For example, one desired outcome of competition was lower prices, but lower disposal prices sent the wrong signal to generators about reducing waste. Another issue was the high demand for self-haul, which was inherently inefficient. We wanted to make sure the system offered the right level of self-haul access and service. The issue of new market entry had been discussed quite a bit. We also wanted to ask if the system was well positioned for future growth, and did it have the right balance of capacity and access. A looming example would be Damascus.

Council President Bragdon asked about the next step. Ms. Matthews had a short list of issues – increased waste regeneration, continuing disposal of recyclable resources, toxics, and an “end of the pipe” management system. She wanted to do a short list of issues relating to RSWMP. Councilor McLain said that these issues had already had a lot of attention during the interim plan; they were all important and needed to be addressed. Could the eight issues be grouped somehow?

Councilor Liberty thought it was hard to reconcile some of the items. He wondered what Metro's role was. Councilor Hosticka asked when the "excess capacity" of the system would be absorbed. Paul Ehinger, Solid Waste and Recycling, said the gap would not be closed in the near future, but that access was the more urgent issue.

Council President Bragdon said we had erected barriers to entry but provided no price regulation. This could theoretically lead to excess profits. Other facilities based their price on ours, even though our cost was lower. The role of vertical integration required transparency for local jurisdictions to set rates. If there were certain public service functions, such as self-haul or household hazardous waste (HHW), these should be more broadly available. Councilor Newman asked about the transport study; was this being handled separately? Ms. Matthews agreed that it was important. Transport costs would very probably be going up. Councilor Newman felt self-haul accessibility was not as good as it could be. Some areas of the region were under-served. Councilor Liberty commented that barge or rail transport might be helpful. Councilor Burkholder said the one that jumped out to him was pricing policies; were there other outcomes we wanted to use pricing for? Not necessarily just to reduce costs, but to achieve other goals; for example, we did not charge for HHW, to encourage people to get those substances out of their homes and properly disposed.

Ms. Matthews said she would bring back a list of issues and some suggestions for guidance.

Council President Bragdon acknowledged Kathryn Harrington, Councilor-elect from District 4.

3. OPEN SPACES IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN UPDATE AND STAFFING PLAN FOR 2006 NATURAL AREAS BOND MEASURE

Jim Desmond, Parks Director, distributed a staff report (a copy is included in the meeting record). He focused on policy decisions over the next eight to ten years, as well as the refinement process and grant program. He talked about the most difficult refinement plan from the last go-around, in the East Buttes. That process had been somewhat controversial; Council had made some tough decisions and also came up with some creative solutions. Councilor McLain shared her experience from the 1995 Council. The last time, there was a lot of public comment about the lack of information available during the vote. She thought it was important to keep the refinement areas at a reasonable size, and for staff to be able to react in a fast and flexible way.

Mr. Desmond described the three-step process. First was stakeholder interviews for the particular areas. In the case of the East Buttes, some stakeholders knew more about it than others. Outside the urban growth boundary (UGB), nobody knew anything. Second was public meetings; on average, 75 people showed up. This was good feedback. Last was sessions with the Council, public meeting, presented a draft refinement plan and citizens came to testify. He reviewed the tier I and II objectives and talked about some of the individual acquisitions that had been made. It was a sort of checkerboard approach, but over time things came together.

William Eadie, Parks Real Estate Negotiator, clarified some of the map details. Mr. Desmond passed around a chart of proposed Councilor-hosted public meetings (a copy is included in the meeting record). He talked about the challenges in satisfying people's desires for their local buys; there would be some tough decisions. He reviewed the geographic refinement process, based on Council districts, to give them a leadership role.

Councilor Park asked about easements and other tools that hadn't been used much yet. How would that change how we focused on these areas? Mr. Desmond said the use of easements might affect who we approached first. Councilor Park was interested in exploring partnerships and ways to make the most of the funds. Councilor McLain wanted to add Council Creek to the list. She felt it would be a tougher sell overall this time, since we'd be getting less land for the money. Community outreach and education would be crucial. Mr. Desmond agreed with the need to keep people focused on the vision and away from personal wish lists. The web would be a good tool for us to frame the questions.

Councilor Newman said that last time, all the target areas were new; this time, some would be carried over from last time. Would acquisitions be given more emphasis if they were linked to areas we already owned? Mr. Desmond said that the issue was sure to come up—it did to some extent last time—it would have to be addressed case by case. Mr. Eadie added that this would be addressed in all the target areas, existing and carryovers. Councilor Liberty asked how much the public remembered about the old target areas. Mr. Desmond said he was pleasantly surprised by how much they knew. Regional and strategic distribution of the funds would be important. Councilor Liberty felt it was important to focus on the new areas. Councilor McLain added that we should keep to what the voters voted for. Councilor Park was concerned about future Council actions that would affect the target areas. Council agreed that both short-term and long-term implications needed to be kept in mind.

Council and staff discussed the tradeoffs between protecting natural resources, balanced with anticipated development, and the use of easements vs. outright purchases. They talked about investment recovery—how to get the most land and value out of properties that came with infrastructure. Councilor Newman asked about the refinement process; he was getting a lot of calls about organic agriculture or community supported agriculture (CSAs)—were these uses appropriate? Mr. Desmond said it was a hot question. They talked about the politics of CSAs and organics and what role Metro had to play. Councilor McLain talked about some of the purchases that had been made last time, and the opportunity to include language in a lease. Mr. Desmond said his idea was that each Councilor would host a refinement meeting that would combine target areas. They tried to lump stakeholders together. Each area would need an adopted refinement plan and would have to be passed by Council.

Council President Bragdon asked about the staffing plan. Mr. Desmond said it would be similar to last time. Upcoming discussions would cover the grant process, inter-governmental agreements, and local share. Council President Bragdon shared Councilor McLain's sentiments regarding the spirit of the measure as it was presented to voters. It was very important to be true to the science, and the refinement needed to be about riparian areas and clean water. Council and staff agreed to be flexible and opportunistic, but with firm criteria. Mr. Eadie said contact with the public so far indicated a high degree of support for water quality. Mr. Desmond said he would go with the public hearings as shown. Councilor Burkholder offered to be a liaison on the grant program. Councilor McLain suggested leading with the least controversial purchases.

4. BREAK

5. FY 2007-08 PRIORITIES/PROGRAM BUDGET DISCUSSION

Council President Bragdon reconfirmed Council's wish to be involved earlier and deeper in the budgeting process. The work so far had been positive. Bear in mind that some programs might need to be scaled back. Cary Stacey, Regional Leadership Initiative (RLI) project manager, asked

each Councilor to spend five minutes listing their budget priorities. Teri Dresler, Parks Program Director, served as scribe.

Councilor Burkholder listed his major principles. 1) Complete the work already started, such as New Look and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). 2) Strategy proposals should play to our strengths, such as planning, technical assistance, and financial incentives. Metro was not an urban renewal agency. 3) Use Public Affairs more effectively. 4) Continue developing work force abilities; our staff was one of our greatest strengths. 5) Audit Metro's system of compliance review. 6) Next steps in conservation education and stable funding sources.

Councilor Newman offered his priorities. 1) Things to finish, such as RTP, RSWMP, and the Zoo master plan. 2) Things that were ongoing, such as open space acquisition, concept planning for expansion areas, convention center hotel decision, and the New Look. 3) Things to get started, such as rail system planning and value capture.

Councilor Park's preferences included the proposed nature and golf learning center, urban and rural reserves, enhanced dry waste recovery program, disposal system planning phase 2, Nature in Neighborhoods grant program, the Convention Center gap, performance-based UGB management, and the RTP.

Councilor Hosticka wanted to focus on operationalizing the New Look, urban and rural reserves, a new forecast and scenario system, defining performance criteria, leadership training, and policy development training of staff and councilors.

Councilor Liberty offered a list of things he would like to see less of—less time in meetings (especially planning), less time and money studying new transportation corridors, less money spent on consulting services for things we should do ourselves (especially in Public Affairs and Government Relations). He would like to see more investigation into transportation investments that delivered 2040, and more time and money to reach a shared regional vision about the investment. We needed a better shared understanding of the costs of new infrastructure and maintenance for urban framework. We should make better use of digital tools for communicating with constituents. He wanted to focus on the 2009 legislative agenda, as well as investing in the Zoo. Another important theme was equity in geographic income distribution.

Councilor McLain identified her priorities. 1) The diversity plan. 2) Sustainability model. We needed to continue to walk our talk, by supporting Zoo efforts, the Green Team, and the Convention Center to become more sustainable. This would be a long-term need. 3) Communication. She had been through numerous systems, but the communication plans and rollouts were not consistent and systematic. 4) Urban reserves and rural preserves. At some point somebody needed to make the call. 5) Transit-oriented development (TOD) and RTP work; the investment for good centers and workable transportation systems needed to be a major focus. 6) RSWMP. We sometimes forgot where Metro began. It began with tasks nobody else could do, had the money to do, or wanted to do. Waste disposal and health issues and services were foremost in our origins. RSWMP absolutely needed to be done by next year.

Council President Bragdon interpolated his comments. He would like to budget time more effectively, especially time when all the Councilors were together. Next year would be the year of the RTP, as well as planning and fiscal impacts of growth. Other highlights were transportation to Arlington, the Convention Center gap, and the Zoo master plan. He was very interested in the rail system plan and in developing a network of conservation services from education to recreation in

partnership with local governments and nonprofits. He would like Metro to be more politically savvy about growth and transportation issues.

Councilor McLain added an item on the relationship between the bond measure money, work and refinement programs, and Nature in Neighborhoods grant programs. These all had to overlap and spin off good things from each other. In the long run, it would save resources if these programs could complement each other.

Council President Bragdon mentioned some things he would like to see less of; he dreamed of spending an entire fiscal year without hearing the words "Title 4," "RSWMP," or "affordable housing code language."

Councilor Burkholder talked about our strengths, especially planning. Most local officials did not have the luxury of looking beyond day-to-day crises. Metro was fortunately able to look ahead. The three key issues would be energy, water, and climate change. These would all really shift our region, and would provide an opportunity for Metro to offer its strengths to local governments.

Councilor Park mentioned that he had participated in the Big Look yesterday. He wondered how the rest of Council felt about the time and effort put into this. Even though we couldn't put a direct dollar amount on it, our jobs would ultimately be affected. Council President Bragdon saw a lot of overlap, so it was to our advantage; any investment would be returned tenfold. Councilor Newman observed that the Big Look committee seems to have adopted Planning Director Andy Cotugno as an informal advisor. Mr. Jordan agreed it was a sound investment.

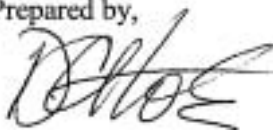
Councilor Liberty noted that Measure 37 was still a huge threat. Our region actually stretched from Salem to Longview. Mr. Jordan stated that the effort had just started. If we wanted to make it the way we did business, that would take resources, and ultimately it would probably be a shared effort, but initially it would require us reaching out to others. No one disagreed. Councilor Park added that we were footing the bill for a much larger area of responsibilities. At some point, we would get reimbursed or compensated somehow. Councilor McLain said we had always understood about the airsheds and the watersheds. The Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) was a good start, but it was only one tool. The structure had got to be easy enough to understand. Mr. Jordan stated that between now and the end of the calendar year, departments would prepare the first drafts of their budgets. He talked about how Council comments would be grouped, prioritized, and matched with funds.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka said he was starting to think about the legislative strategy.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hotz
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 14, 2006**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	11/16/06	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, November 16, 2006	111406c-01
2	RSWMP	11/14/06	To: Metro Council From: Janet Matthews Re: RSWMP Guiding Direction for the Disposal System	111406c-02
3	Bond measure	7/17/96	To: Metro Council From: Jim Desmond Re: Staff Report for Consideration of Resolution No. 96-2361	111406c-03
3	Bond measure	undated	To: Metro Council From: Jim Desmond Re: Proposed public meetings by host	111406c-04