

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Brian Newman (excused), Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 26, 2007//ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the April 26, 2007 Metro Council agenda.

2.1 NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM TARGET AREA REFINEMENTS

Jim Desmond, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Director, listed today's refinement areas: Cooper Mountain, Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluffs, Abernethy and Newell Creeks, Columbia Slough and Trail, and Tualatin River Greenway. He was not aware of any looming controversies in these areas. Major themes included the following:

- Efforts to build on existing public assets, including purchases from the 1995 bond measure.
- In-holdings of private property were sometimes problematic.
- Importance of staying close to the bond measure language.
- Staff was trying to be aware of other acquisition and development in the target areas—such as local share—that might affect the decisions.
- Some areas might require significant restoration.
- There was still pressure and uncertainty around Measure 37 claims.
- Habitat corridors and connections were of high value.
- Providing the highest quality outdoor experience at the least cost.
- Access was a big issue. Natural areas need a road or trail, boat access, parking, some way to get on the site.
- Some floodplains were still experiencing development.
- A main focus was cooperation with local jurisdictions.
- Some areas were fragmented beyond repair by private development.
- Some target areas would require Council to make policy decisions and set priorities.
- Opportunities for partnerships, with one agency doing acquisition and another doing restoration.

There were a lot of Measure 37 claims in the Cooper Mountain area.

Very little had changed in the Willamette Narrows and Canemah Bluffs area. One option would be to rely on the refinement work done in this area last time.

Jim Morgan, Regional Parks and Greenspaces, talked about the Abernethy and Newell area. Some very important watersheds were here. There was still building in the flood plain taking place. There was an opportunity to protect some rare habitat as well as water quality.

Mr. Desmond talked about Columbia Slough. It was heavily developed and zoned industrial. The Colwood golf course was coming up for sale; golf courses required aggressive and immediate restoration or they would be taken over by invasive species. The Port of Portland discouraged restoration and habitat within two miles of airports. There was probably little risk of being criticized for taking land out of industrial and putting it into natural area zoning. There were some opportunities in Smith & Bybee Lakes.

The Tualatin River Greenway was the biological main street of Washington County. It was hugely important. We did well there last time, but its prominence could hardly be overstated. There was still a lack of public access. The Wapato refuge would be a priority. The area included some federal ownership.

Council commented on the tradeoff between protecting habitat and providing access for humans. They requested that the maps show city and road markings more prominently.

**2.2 EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(e),
DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED TO NEGOTIATE
REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

Time Began: 3:00 p.m.

Time Ended: 3:34 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Desmond, Hilary Wilton, Paul Garrahan, Dan Cooper, Kathleen Brennan Hunter, Kristin Lieser

3. BREAK

4. FY 2007-08 BUDGET WORK SESSION – DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS

Council President Bragdon wanted to put the amendments in the context of the larger budget issues and Metro's financial situation and overall goals for the agency. He referred to his memo of April 23, 2007 (a copy is included in the meeting record). Councilor Harrington noted that the nature-friendly design competition amendment did actually request a portion from the opportunity fund. Also, she was having trouble seeing the new revenues. Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator, said there were two pieces to the amendment. The first part carried over some grant monies and could be a technical amendment. The second piece was additional monies to enhance the program. The two pieces could be addressed separately. Councilor Harrington asked about the amendment on the elephant center—what would have happened to that money if it hadn't been in the original budget? Response was that it was due to higher than expected revenues at the zoo; in principle, it would be part of the general fund.

Ms. Rutkowski summarized the amendments as distributed to the Councilors in their packets (a copy of each is included in the meeting record). She reviewed the previous staff recommendations on use of the reserves. Starting with the departmental requests, Council and staff first reviewed the technical amendments. They were mostly carryovers from the previous year. There was nothing controversial. Council President Bragdon offered to bring them all forward as a block.

Discussion turned to substantive departmental amendments. The first-floor office remodel was related to the natural areas bond measure. Estimates and design were still taking place; the current estimate was \$579,000. Councilor Burkholder said a lot of the increase in cost was, over time, there had been problems in not meeting code. Would this be an appropriate use of the renewal and replacement's enhanced balance? Bill Stringer, Chief Financial Officer, stated that there were issues in deciding what was renewal and replacement. They asked the architect to bear that in mind. The \$579,000 seemed high to him.

Councilor Liberty asked about the \$79,000 eligible for immediate payment from natural area bonds. Mr. Stringer responded that, if the useful life of the asset was longer than the life of the bonds, it couldn't be paid for out of bond proceeds. If the asset had a shorter life than the bonds, then it could be paid for. So furniture could be paid for out of bond funds. It was an expense versus an investment. Councilor Liberty felt a bit strange about spending bond funds for furniture. He also had some questions about the formula.

Jeff Tucker, Parks Finance Manager, commented that the current entire space in Parks was 4,400 square feet. The proposed addition was roughly 1,000 square feet. Mr. Desmond said that the area was originally the basement of the Sears building; it was never designed for office use. Councilor Harrington asked whether that were one of the estimated costs. Mr. Stringer said yes. Councilor Liberty wanted to know how much of the remodel would be due to code compliance. Council President Bragdon was concerned about these plans; in terms of what had been set aside for renewal and replacement, how did this come to the top of the list? Mr. Stringer said that the standard practice would have been to schedule a Capital Improvement Project and charge the department for the cost. This was somewhat different; it seemed counterproductive to have the bond measure funds and then charge the department for the cost. Reed Wagner, Policy Coordinator, added that, at the time of the departmental budget requests last fall, we had not been confident of acquiring that additional square footage.

The part-time staff amendment for the Oregon Convention Center gave rise to no controversy.

The Office of the Metro Attorney (OMA) was requesting an additional attorney to work on the natural areas bond measure issues. The legal work was more complicated than had been anticipated, due in large part to Measure 37.

Public Affairs and Government Relations requested \$40,000 for legislative affairs support, to contract out some work when our own lobbyist was overwhelmed.

The Parks Department submitted amendments to recognize the acceptance of Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) grants for the Tonquin Trail and two new restoration grants. These proved uncontroversial.

Doug Anderson, Solid Waste and Recycling Finance Manager, talked about their amendment to pay for consulting services on a disaster debris management plan, to develop a resource guide. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may reimburse much of it.

Ms. Rutkowski again reviewed the options on moving reserves into contingency. The first amendment would move half the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) reserve to contingency. Another would move the general fund recovery rate stabilization reserve to contingency. The third would move excess solid waste reserves to contingency. Mr. Anderson talked about the restrictions on the solid waste monies. The two basic restrictions were the bond

covenants, due to be paid off in 2009, and state anti-fungibility law specific to Metro. They had worked closely with OMA to see what was allowable. Some examples were the Environmental Action Team (ENACT), the green roof project, and low-flush toilets—these were all water quality and water conservation related. Councilor Burkholder's main concern was that this money was piling up; it was possible that rates needed to be reduced, or did the Council solid waste experts have some ideas on the use of the funds? He was content to withdraw the amendment and revisit the issue next year. Council preferred to retain the amendment.

On behalf of Councilor Newman, who was out of town, his policy coordinator Amelia Porterfield presented the Nature-Friendly Design Competition amendment. There was great interest in the competition, and it had grown beyond its initial conception. Fundraising had so far kept pace with the budget, so Metro had not actually spent anything on the event yet. There would be more costs with the jury, and media and advertising costs would be greater. Councilor Harrington asked how the project had expanded so. Stacy Triplett, Nature in Neighborhoods program, said the main reason was that they had decided to keep the jurors here longer.

Ms. Triplett also spoke about the Earth Advantage amendment. The idea was to contribute to a partnership, rather than duplicating the effort. It would be a one-time expenditure.

Councilor Liberty presented the elephant center amendment. The funding would come from zoo revenues, which were anticipated to be better than expected. Councilor Harrington wondered if that would take funds away from deferred maintenance and other projects. Councilor Liberty said those issues were being addressed in other ways. Tony Vecchio, Zoo Director, said the elephant center would rate higher than many renewal and replacement needs, in terms of the zoo's priorities. Elephants were so tremendously important.

Councilor Park discussed the need to fund the next round of the Nature in Neighborhoods grants program.

He then presented the Council sponsorship amendment. The sponsorship program was still being developed. The idea was to maintain the amount. A correction to the chart was noted; the funds would come from "contingency," not "ending fund balance."

Councilor Burkholder spoke about Planning Amendments 3, 4, and 5. There was a need to budget for work that needed to meet federal deadlines. Amendment 5 would explore a possible fall 2008 ballot measure. Councilor Liberty said he would like to see these projects put into the larger context of how we invested transportation dollars.

Councilor Liberty spoke about the regional affordable housing revolving fund.

He then talked about the economic development speaker series carryover.

Councilor Harrington talked about the expanded Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)/Centers investment amendment, and the great placemaking program. She wanted to work more closely with the jurisdictions.

Mr. Stringer said he would provide the breakdown of costs for first floor renovation, and plan for how to consider the elements. Council President Bragdon wanted a plan that came out with strategic goals and objectives, from the directors, tied to the budget requests, later in the summer.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Burkholder said the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) was having a conversation about membership and recognizing changes that had occurred since 1979. He distributed two handouts (a copy of each is included in the meeting record). They were looking at transit agency representation on JPACT. He talked about regional growth trends. There had been a big shift to the cities; were we properly representing jurisdictions with the current makeup of JPACT? Some other planning agencies had a weighted vote structure. Council discussed various requirements and options for managing JPACT. Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, believed there had never been a conversation about having all seven Metro councilors on JPACT. Councilor Burkholder said the other issue would be having non-government (e.g., business) people on JPACT. Councilor Harrington wondered whether there was a concern about the number of seats for other agencies. Councilor Burkholder said he had not heard that. The federal government had indicated that our area had had some changes, since we had more agencies now. Councilor Liberty wondered if there was some way to structure the discussions so they were less territorial. Could we compose JPACT to have more policy focus and less project focus, and a more regional perspective?

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hotz
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
APRIL 24, 2007**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	4/26/07	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, April 26, 2007	042407c-01
4	Budget	4/23/07	To: Metro Council From: David Bragdon Re: Outline of Amendments and Reserve Discussion	042407c-02
4	Budget	4/18/07	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: Department Amendments to the FY 2007-08 Proposed Budget	042407c-03
4	Budget	4/18/07	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: Amendments to Move Reserves to Contingency	042407c-04
4	Budget	4/18/07	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: Councilor Amendments to the FY 2007-08 Proposed Budget	042407c-05
4	Budget	undated	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: FY 2007-08 Budget, Summary of Councilor Amendments by Funding Sources	042407c-06
4	Budget	undated	To: Metro Council From: Kathy Rutkowski Re: FY 2007-08 Budget, Summary of All Amendments with General Fund Reserves/Contingency Implications	042407c-07
5	Councilor Communications	undated	To: Metro Council From: Rex Burkholder Re: Transit Districts and JPACT Bylaw Update Options	042407c-08
5	Councilor Communications	undated	To: Metro Council From: Rex Burkholder Re: Regional Growth Trends and JPACT Bylaw Update Options	042407c-09