

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, Jan 3, 2007
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Hal Ballard, Virginia Bruce, Chory Ferguson, Malek Hall, Mark Knudsen, Gerritt Rosenthal, Skip White, Karen Wolfgang

Members absent: JC Kizak, Scott Seibert

Members excused: Norm Andreen, Erin Miller, Christine Roth

Also present: Segeni Mungai

Call to order, review of agenda, approval of Dec. 6, 2006 meeting minutes, introductions

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Kate Marx reviewed upcoming work for the committee for the January, February and March agendas. There was discussion of the logistics of having items on the agenda at certain times in order for the committee's comments and suggestions to be useful to the staff.

Review of MCCI's work, July–December 2006

Chair Warren and Kate Marx reviewed the variety and depth of information that has been discussed at MCCI meetings over the past 6 months. The committee has come up with good suggestions to the Council.

Committee Handbook review/revision

The committee discussed pros and cons of keeping notebooks from which to work at Metro. Some would prefer to have the materials posted on the web for retrieval. Some wanted to keep individual notebook in the meeting room. Some wanted to keep the notebooks at home and bring them to meetings. After discussion, a decision was made to have the agendas initially sent as links or attachments to emails, then provided as hard copies at the meetings.

Continuing the discussion of the work of the previous six months, one member valued hearing directly from the people who are making policy and feeling heard by them. One member didn't feel like he had done any serious work in the last 4 months. He had heard interesting and informative presentations, but said it had been pretty quiet as far as projects. Another member highlighted learning about the waste stream from the solid waste department. She said she still hasn't made the connection between what the committee does and the work that Metro does.

Chair Warren discussed how to keep the knowledge of long-time members who would be term-limited off the committee soon. She said the newer folks were getting up to speed but needed to work on how to keep their knowledge and strengths working to meet the committee's mission. She felt the discussion tonight gave a lot of hope for that. She agreed that having more information online would be good.

She urged the members to come to the meetings prepared and to do some reading ahead of time. She said they are building a good platform.

Suggestions were made that perhaps each member could bring three questions for the presenters to talk about in addition to the regular educational parts of their presentations. When staff came we could

say these are the critical questions we are wrestling with, what do you think? We can help. Or, the presenters could focus the group on specific questions perplexing to them and ask for suggestions.

A longer-term goal would be for this group to gain a reputation for being kind of a think tank for the groups that use us. He added that if we created a reputation of being a dynamic and involved group we wouldn't have as much trouble getting people to join.

Some thought holding our meeting in different locations would be good for a different perspective of the issues. Others suggested having MCCI members visit other organizations' meetings. Kate Marx said she would like to see a little higher attendance of MCCI folks at Metro activities., i.e., workshops, public meetings, focus groups. She would like to have at least one MCCI person at all the events as a loop closing activity. It was noted that the timing of most of the council meetings is not conducive to having working citizens attend.

Increasing diversity of citizen representation on advisory committees

There was further committee discussion regarding increasing diversity of citizen representation on Metro advisory committees to staff at the February meeting. The conclusion was that it is practically impossible to make diversity happen on most of Metro's committees as they are most often regionally populated or appointed by the Council.

The following members will gather information about Metro meetings to find out whether and how each committee tries for diversity. Virginia Bruce will interview Pat Sullivan regarding Greenspace Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) and Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee meetings; Gerritt Rosenthal will talk to Jessica Martin about the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT); Karen Wolfgang will see Susan Moore about the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings. There were no takers for the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) or the auditor's citizen committee.

Roundtable

Skip White reported that his neighborhood has a safety action team meeting the week following the MCCI meeting. Participants in that meeting always want to know what is happening with Metro. He said Metro has had a bad name in his neighborhood but the fact that they see feedback from other problems being addressed by Metro has made it not seem as bad as it has been. He said progress is being made for Metro's reputation, although it is slow.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl grant
MCCI staff