

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006
Room 270

Members present: Christine Roth (Chair), Norm Andreen, , Jamie Magdovitz, Erin Miller, Kate Warren, Skip White, Virginia Bruce, JC Kizak, Ed Rutledge (Vice Chair)

Members excused: Kathy Henton

Members absent: Scott Seibert

Also present: Malek Hall, Karen Wolfgang, Metro staff Kate Marx, Karen Kane, Cheryl Grant

Call to order

Chair Roth called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with the RSWMP item being postponed to a later meeting.

Approval of Dec. 7, 2005 and Jan. 4, 2006 minutes

Hearing no objections, Chair Roth declared the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2005 and Jan. 4, 2006 meetings approved as presented.

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) update

None.

Councilor newsletter redesign

Karen Kane asked for feedback on several questions regarding councilor newsletters.

1- Distribution/format - Ms. Kane asked if those who don't receive them wanted them, and if so, would they prefer to receive e-mails or remember to check for them online.

Only two committee members are currently receiving newsletters from their councilors. The committee discussed several options for distributing newsletters. Some felt one basic newsletter with links to different councilor opinions could work. Another idea was to have a link on the homepage to each newsletter page. Some thought checking online was good, but others preferred hardcopies in the mail. A suggestion was made to put a link in an e-mail instead of attaching it.

2- Content - Ms. Kane asked if the newsletter content was useful.

The committee felt the meeting and event information was valuable. There could be something about hot issues and chances for public comment in an eye-catching position on the page. They liked Councilor Burkholder's new e-mail format with a table of contents at the top of the page and suggested links in the body for additional info.

3- Councilors' websites – Ms. Kane asked if committee members refer to individual councilor web pages.

Some of them had checked the pages. A suggestion was made to have something to encourage public participation on various issues.

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Best practices progress report

Erin Miller and Kate Warren asked for clarification regarding the goal and usefulness of the best practice work they had taken on. The committee discussed the project and concluded that they would like to invite citizen and neighborhood groups to talk informally about their methods of citizen involvement with the group. The plan now is to review at the March meeting what the committee would like to discuss with the neighborhood associations and CPOs at the April meeting.

Motion: Ed Ruttledge moved, with a second from Norm Andreen, that the Chair appoint a “regional public involvement liaison” from the MCCI, the purpose of which will be to invite regional public involvement representatives for an informal interaction with the members of the Metro CCI.

Vote: The vote was 9 aye/0 nay/0 abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Roth appointed Norm Andreen to invite Clackamas County representatives, JC Kizak to invite Multnomah County and City of Portland representatives, and Virginia Bruce to invite Washington County representatives to the April meeting for informal discussions regarding public involvement participation. Gina Whitehill-Baziuk will be requested to review and bring written materials used by Metro to the March meeting to prepare for the conversations. It was noted that Vice Chair Ruttledge will be leading that meeting as the Chair has a conflict.

Chair report

None.

Public comment/roundtable

Jamie Magdovitz will send information about the upcoming environmental justice conference at Lewis and Clark for forwarding to the committee members in case anyone is interested.

Karen Wolfgang asked about the Nature in Neighborhoods grants. Kate Marx said there had been 81 pre applications for the million dollars available. The plan is to grant \$500,000 this fiscal year and \$500,000 next fiscal year. The Council will review applications starting in three weeks.

Skip White reported that the Sauvie Island bridge is coming along rapidly. The same contractor as redid the St. Johns bridge is working on it. That bridge work was completed well in advance. He was concerned about the possibility of ship breaking in the Portland harbor. He noted that residue is still coming down the river from when the junkyard flooded in Tualatin two weeks ago.

Norm Andreen said he had attended a function at the new Clackamas County building where Council President Bragdon and Councilor Newman had given a presentation about Metro’s process for looking at lands for inclusion into the urban growth boundary in two or three years. He like the process at the presentation because the councilors took and responded to those questions, unlike previous “listening posts”. He hoped they would use the new method of presenting throughout the region.

Kate Warren said the opening speaker for the economic development speaker series. Michael Gallis, was incredible. She said he basically did a review about the state of the world and where Portland may fall within those dynamics. He challenged the community to look at resources that we could leverage. He offered a proposed framework about how to look at that. He has been doing this with different cities and felt a lot of Metro’s work was on the same page. Virginia Bruce agreed it was fascinating.

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Chair Roth agreed with Norm about Council President Bragdon and Councilor Newman's presentation. She said people came doubting it would be so productive. She said it turned out to be a valuable meeting and also wanted to see them repeat it for other areas.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Roth adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl grant

MCCI staff