

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2006
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Norm Andreen, Virginia Bruce, Malek Hall, JC Kizak, Jamie Magdovitz, Erin Miller, Skip White

Members excused: Scott Siebert, Christine Roth

Also present: Hal Ballard, Gerritt Rosenthal, pending members, potential member Karen Wolfgang, Metro staff Andy Cotugno, Heather Kent, Ken Ray, Pat Emmerson, Cheryl Grant.

Call to order

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of August 2, 2006 meeting minutes

Motion: Erin Miller moved, with a second from Norm Andreen, to approve the minutes as presented.

Vote: The vote to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2006 meeting was 8 aye/0 nay/0 abstain. The motion passed.

Cooper Mountain Master Plan public outreach update

Heather Nelson Kent, Community Outreach Manger from the Parks department, summarized the public involvement work done on the Cooper Mt. master plan and distributed a draft Public Involvement Plan Outline (PIPO) for upcoming public facility design and engineering work. She shared communications tools that will be used to continue to reach a variety of people, i.e., newsletters, site tours, meetings. She said these would be available to everyone, but they would focus on key stakeholders in the Cooper Mountain area.

Some committee members were concerned that they had not been informed on a more regular basis about what is going on with the public outreach on this project. They felt it was hard to give intelligent suggestions or comment about public involvement processes when the department brings work already done to the committee. It was suggested that the committee could be more helpful and constructive if they were included in the process instead of just seeing the beginning and the final results without having a chance to comment on the public involvement process.

In response to questions, Ms. Kent said a ranger position tied to the site as well as a naturalist. The Audubon Society was not consulted as they seldom get involved with regional projects. The Tualatin Riverkeepers, the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District biologist and the Washington County council were consulted instead.

RTP update

Pat Emmerson distributed a draft Metro diversity plan. She asked the committee to take it with them to review and be prepared to comment on it at a future meeting. She noted the upcoming public comment period for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and handed out the first cut list with listening post opportunities in November. The handout included the hotline number and other opportunities for comment on the project, i.e., the website, e-mail.

Responding to a question about the definition of "all modes of travel", Ms. Emmerson said airlines and Amtrak are not included as this is a regional plan and those modes are national. Freight is on the list and has its own section in the plan, with a task force focusing on just freight.

Orientation

Andy Cotugno, Planning Department Director, explained to the committee all of the things his department is responsible for. Land use is at the top of the list, covering a wide variety of issues from affordable housing to employment to transportation investment to how we want our region to grow, and protection of greenspaces with a strong connection to where to urbanize vs. where to preserve rural lands.

He talked about long-range planning and the New Look, which is a revisiting of the 2040 concept. Within that is monitoring local government compliance. He noted that local jurisdictions do their own zoning and planning and Metro ensures that they do that. Metro supports the local planning processes and sometimes provides technical support.

Two big functions of the transportation group are the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which has a 4-year update cycle, and corridor planning, which is much more specific than the RTP. The last major RTP update was in 2000, which concluded that 5-year process. Every four years the department does a long-range planning update and every 2 years, they do a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) allocation. The current RTP work will be treated as a major update.

Corridor planning- staff is starting to look at the Milwaukie lightrail project again. Mr. Cotugno said multimodal corridor planning is a significant area of transportation planning, and includes public involvement.

Ken Ray updated the committee on the 2006 natural areas bond measure. Ballot Measure 26-80 is a \$4 million bond that would enable Metro to continue to purchase open spaces and natural areas in the region. There are three components to the measure: \$268.4 million for regional target areas, \$44 million for local share, which is money that goes directly to cities, counties, park districts using a distribution formula agreed upon ahead of time for natural areas habitat restoration, and a \$15 million Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant fund designed to help communities identify local re-naturing projects. There is a 2:1 match required from the community for the grants, and the project has to be on publicly owned land of some kind. There were three public hearings during the time the Metro council was formulating the measure. Now that the Council has voted to refer the measure to the ballot, it is a political campaign issue and Metro staff cannot advocate for passage. Since March 9, we have issued purely informational items to the public and there is basic information on website. If the measure passes in November we will work only with willing sellers to purchase land. If it passes, only property owners inside the Metro boundary would be affected by the tax assessment from the measure

Chair Report

Chair Warren talked about formulating a strategic plan for MCCI. She gave copies of a draft she and Vice Chair Miller had drawn up and asked for input from the committee. Chair Warren tabled the outreach to religious and other groups issue until Kate Marx and Scott Seibert could be at the table. She noted that diverse groups could also be included in that discussion. She said she would like to talk about which groups to reach out to and asked the committee to bring back some suggestions about that.

Norm Andreen commented that a communication tool that would allow Metro departments to keep the committee informed of new projects coming up was needed since it is currently very easy for projects to slip by the committee and be already up and going before they heard anything. Suggestions from the committee included the use of electronic technology on a list and using minutes from other advisory committee meetings or having an MCCI member attend those meetings on a rotating basis and reporting back.

Public comment/roundtable

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl grant
MCCI staff