

**Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement**  
**Regular Committee**  
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006  
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Norm Andreen, Chory Ferguson, Malek Hall, Mark Knudesen, Erin Miller, Gerritt Rosenthal, Christine Roth, Skip White, Karen Wolfgang

Members excused: Virginia Bruce, JC Kizak, Scott Siebert

Members absent: Hal Ballard, Jamie Magdovitz

Also present: Metro staff Kate Marx, Pat Emmerson, Karol Ford, Janelle Geddes, Jeff Tucker, Phillip Kennedy-Wong, Cheryl Grant.

**Call to order, review of agenda, approval of Sept. 6, 2006 meeting minutes**

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Introductions of two new members, Karen Wolfgang and Chory Ferguson, were made, as well as a new Office of Citizen Involvement staff person, Phillip Kennedy-Wong. Chair Warren reviewed the agenda and, hearing no objections, declared the minutes of the September meeting approved as presented. The MCCI purpose was reviewed.

**Councilor Communications**

Councilor Rod Park said he appreciated MCCI's role helping make sure the Council is giving citizen input at the right time in the right amount. He said MCCI provides a valuable service to the Council.

He reported that the region's recycling rate is currently at 59% , one of the highest in the nation. However, the flip side of recycling is the disposal system. He talked about the history of the Metro region's disposal partnership with Gilliam county and said it has worked well. He said the council is ready now to take another look to see if it is appropriate for government to stay involved, or if there is a better way. He added that we probably have the best system we can at this time but the council will continue to look at barging or other ways to get garbage to Gilliam county and/or backhauling loads of rock to the Metro region. The report is available on the Metro website.

Councilor Park reported on the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program, which helps empower citizens to do something in their own neighborhood as well as across the region. It is a 2-year pilot program and \$560,000 went to 32 groups across the region. There was a pre application process, an application process, and a show and tell process where the Council learned about the programs. They received initial requests for approximately \$3 million for the \$500,000 available. Round Two is beginning, with a mailer going to about 3,000 folks announcing a pre-application period in mid-October and awards being presented in May.

Janelle Geddes, restoration program coordinator for the Nature in Neighborhoods program, talked about the applications and the Fall workshop. She said they want to help people successfully apply. She calls folks to tell them why they were not accepted to the grant and urges them to reapply.

There was discussion regarding applicant eligibility for persons outside the Metro boundary. Councilor Park said there are sensitive political issues because it could look like Metro was trying to take on things outside the boundary.

### **Increasing diversity of citizen representation of advisory committees**

Karol Ford, recruitment and selection manager, talked about Metro's goal of increasing diversity on Metro committees. She encouraged MCCI to increase their outreach to diverse populations and look for ways to reach a broader audience. She said they were hoping that MCCI could create a subcommittee to come up with 5-6 suggestions for the diversity committee on how to do that outreach. The suggestions would be used to encourage others reach broader audiences. Committee discussion followed. Ms. Emmerson will come to a future meeting to continue the conversation. Vice Chair Miller said they would have an e-mail discussion for additional suggestions and be ready for that conversation.

### **Regional Transportation Priorities (RTP) overview of stakeholder workshop**

Pat Emmerson, public affairs specialist in the Planning department, said education is a huge part of the Fall RTP workshops, which will start with an overview laying out issues. She responded to questions about the RTP and funneling federal dollars to local projects. She noted they always have more projects than they can afford to do, and explained the different way they will proceed this time so they don't end up with a plan that can't be done.

### **Orientation: Regional Parks and Greenspaces**

Jeff Tucker, Regional Parks and Greenspaces department finance manager, provided a brief history of the parks and greenspaces department, which was created in 1994 when Multnomah County transferred regional parks management to Metro, including Oxbow and Blue Lake regional parks, James Gleason and Chinook Landing marine facilities, 14 pioneer cemeteries and several obscure minor properties.

He briefed the committee on the last openspaces bond measure and talked about the property that had been acquired through that bond. He said Metro operates about 12,000 acres of property throughout the region. Of that, about 4,000 acres is open to public use. He talked about the educational and planning divisions in the department. The department works with local parks providers to establish a seamless system of parks throughout the region. The goal is for parks to work for citizens, regardless of who is responsible for the parks, Metro or regional jurisdictions. He said they also do site specific work to develop or improve some land for public use.

He gave some information about the proposed golf learning center at Blue Lake Park and the Cooper Mountain design and engineering work. He said the Cooper Mountain master plan has already been completed and they are getting ready to take the unprecedented step of opening up this engineering process to the public. An upcoming master plan update process for the Mt. Talbert design will include public involvement. He will come back to MCCI about that when the time comes.

### **Roundtable**

Gerritt Rosenthal wondered if the MCCI had discussed or been involved in dealing with diversity outreach policy as a public involvement issue and whether it should be. Norm Andreen said the committee has looked at diversity programs from some of the departments, i.e., from Solid Waste for the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP), on how to reach underserved communities. He said it did not include developing a pool of people for Metro to pull from. He added that Metro has tried to reach those communities before, but it is very difficult to do. Chris Roth noted that a couple of years ago a Foster Road project used high school kids from an alternative school to reach the Ukrainian and Russian communities as well as doing some Hispanic outreach. She said that was the best example of diversity on the ground seen for a while.

Chair Warren said she would bring a revised strategy list back to the committee in the near future. She thanked the committee for the good discussion.

**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