

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

November 1, 2001

Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Presiding Officer), Rod Park, Bill Atherton, Rod Monroe, Carl Hosticka, Rex Burkholder

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain (excused)

Presiding Officer Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:06 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Presiding Officer Bragdon introduced Phil Prewitt, Night Animal Keeper from the Oregon Zoo.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Burton, Executive Officer, spoke to security measures being taken at Metro. He noted that this was a public building. They had instituted employees wearing identification badges. There had been hand outs and training dealing with belligerent individuals. He noted other procedures such as replacing the gates and mail handling issues. He asked for input from the council concerning visitor security.

He spoke to the Oregon Zoo condor program, the new sites for breeding of the condors, and particularly the possible use of Clear Creek, an open spaces site. He talked about the policy issues that the council will have to decide including budgetary issues. He felt it was significant that Metro had been asked to be part of this program.

Presiding Officer Bragdon said he and Mr. Burton had talked about having an Informal to discuss all of the issues.

Councilor Park asked about timing and who sought the contact.

Mr. Burton said the Oregon Zoo was part of an ongoing conservation program. As part of their on going mission, the Oregon Zoo sought these things out. He said the Department of Interior wanted to find a natural area for the program and felt that the Oregon Zoo was a strong possibility.

Councilor Park asked when the contact was made.

Mr. Burton said he had no idea, the Zoo had been working on this for sometime. He suggested a briefing about all the on going conservation programs the Zoo was involved in.

4. AUDITOR COMMUNICATIONS

Alexis Dow, Metro Auditor, presented annual "Status of Audit Recommendations" to the Council (a copy of which may be found in the meeting record). She explained the purpose, the auditor's responsibilities and the status of the outstanding recommendations. She felt their recommendations when implemented did make a difference. She noted that approximately 90% of the recommendations had been implemented or where in process. She noted the excellent progress of the Information Technology Department in the remaining recommendations they had to implement.

Presiding Officer Bragdon asked how the auditor determined when one of the recommendations had been satisfied, some were more subjective than others.

Ms. Dow said it depended on the nature of the recommendations. She said page 4 spoke to their methodology. She gave several examples.

Councilor Park asked if she had asked staff about costs estimate and cost benefit analysis.

Ms. Dow said the element of cost benefit was always considered. In terms of actually estimating the cost, they did not do this. Most recommendations were more broadly phrased. Management was left to make the decisions as to how they implemented the recommendations.

Councilor Park asked if Ms. Dow expected 100% compliance.

Ms. Dow said she did expect this but management would make the decision on how to achieve the objective.

Councilor Park said if management did not agree with the objective they would not implement it.

Ms. Dow said normally they came to some agreement as to how to achieve the recommendation.

Councilor Park said he was trying to make a distinction between the audit function and the management function, who might disagree with the auditor's recommendations.

Ms. Dow clarified her role and management's role.

Councilor Park reiterated if management did not agree with the objective where did they begin and end.

Ms. Dow responded that usually they worked together to come to agreement.

Presiding Officer Bragdon asked about timing of the audits. Were a lot of them handled fairly quickly?

Ms. Dow said most were handled within the first year or so. Most action were taken fairly soon.

5. MPAC COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

6. GREEN RIBBON PRELIMINARY REPORT

Presiding Officer Bragdon talked about the reason for and the process of the Green Ribbon Committee. He then introduced **Walt Hitchcock, Green Ribbon Committee Chair, Mary King, Councilor from the City of Milwaukie and Jeff Stone, Legislative/Policy Development Officer.**

Mr. Hitchcock spoke to the broad vision behind the region's open spaces and the reason for the inception of the committee. He said they had, as a region, a series of habitat nodes. Metro was a key part of developing those nodes. He talked about the history of the green spaces program. He spoke to the charge of the committee and the process the committee went through to accomplish the charge and the mission. He noted the trails and how they tied everything together. He said the sites that needed to be focus on were because of their geographic location to the urban growth boundary.

Councilor King said everyone on the committee was committed to working towards the goal.

Mr. Hitchcock said they had arrived at a consensus for their final recommendations. He talked about the results of the committee. They had selected 15 areas to be opened up. They wanted to complete trails, identify sites around the region that could be show cased. He asked Mr. Charlie Ciecko to introduced the top four sites and the top four trails.

Mr. Charlie Ciecko, Parks and Green Spaces Director, said there had been a lot of cohesiveness on the committee. He introduced the eight sites. The Fanno Creek Trail was a site that would be ready for trail construction on the west-side of Portland's West Hills. The second major trail project was the 5.2-mile Gresham to Fairview Trail. There was strong local support for this trail. The third trail project was the Springwater Trail and noted the MTIP funding for this project. The fourth trail was the Beaverton Powerline Trail extending from Forest Park to Scholls Ferry Road.

Mr. Hitchcock talked about the objective of the regional distributed four anchor sites.

Mr. Ciecko continued by introducing the Mt. Talbert site. He then spoke to the Wilsonville Tract, 230 acres located adjacent to the City of Wilsonville. There was a tremendous amount of local support and partnering with Metro including operation and maintenance for this site. He introduced Metro's Smith and Bybee Lakes, 2000 acres of fresh water wetland in north Portland. Cooper Mountain was the fourth site that was selected. There were 247 acres with an additional 250 acre piece that could be acquired in the future.

Mr. Hitchcock said they had identified seven additional sites that would be developed as well and asked Mr. Ciecko to introduce these sites.

Mr. Ciecko introduced the 6-mile long Portland Traction Trail and the Tualatin River Access Points that included Farmington Road, the Munger Farm and the Wankers Corner accesses to the Tualatin River.

Councilor Atherton said the bond issue didn't consider active recreation sites but felt that Wankers Corner might possibly be considered for such recreation.

Mr. Ciecko said that was true.

Councilor Atherton asked if there was any way they could create an active recreation site at Wankers.

Mr. Ciecko said it was possible to declare excess land and reimburse the fund.

Councilor Hosticka noted other sites along the Tualatin River.

Mr. Ciecko continued by introducing the Beaver Creek Canyon Trail. He talked about the Ambleside/Hogan Cedars site, also known as the 40-mile loop. He noted that the City of Gresham supported this trail. Willamette Cove was one of the three additional sites, a great asset for north Portland and to the public of the region. He commented on East Buttes – Butler Ridge Trail. Canemah Bluff, 62 acres south of Oregon City was the final site recommended.

Mr. Hitchcock said the 15 sites were balanced regionally. He acknowledged the value of the other sites on the original list. They were trying to implement a regional vision. He spoke to the financials. They estimated \$38 million for capital improvements to develop the 15 sites. He suggested the total package was about \$60 million and included not only capital improvements but operations and maintenance, challenge grants to local governments, landbanking other sites, restoration/small capital improvements and contingency. This was a progressive program. It took time to develop and build these sites. The master plans would have to be developed to determine the true expenditures for these sites. He suggested two ways of funding; a five-year plan that would be referred to the votes or a 10-year plan authorized by the Metro Council without referral. They recommended funding utilizing Metro's existing excise tax. He noted the long-term recommendations. They did not consider the shortfall of the Park's Department's operations and maintenance. The group was excited about what they had accomplished. They had revisited the mission of green spaces and where the region was.

Presiding Officer Bragdon applauded the job the committee had done.

Jeff Stone, Legislative/Policy Development Officer, addressed the next steps. There would be three listening posts, November 7th at Midland Library, November 13th at Tualatin Hills Nature Center and November 20th at the Crest Environmental Learning Center. He said this was the preliminary report. The final report would be coming to the council in early December.

Councilor Atherton asked about rating trails versus sites.

Mr. Hitchcock said this had been discussed but he didn't feel that there was resolution. The sites and trails gave purpose to each other. He explained how they ranked the sites.

Councilor Atherton asked about the regional trail connectors.

Mr. Hitchcock said they talked about this but felt that their best approach was to implement what existed. The committee felt that eventually the goal was an entire regional trail system.

Councilor Atherton spoke to other funding that could tie into the trail system. He asked Dan Cooper, General Counsel, about system development charges and capital improvement projects that had been financed through excise taxes.

Mr. Cooper said that was a complicated question because of the excise tax. He said he would have to research Councilor Atherton's question.

Presiding Officer Bragdon said any discussion about the excise tax needed to be discussed with the solid waste industry.

Councilor Monroe asked Mr. Hitchcock about the Lake Oswego - Macadam rail line.

Mr. Hitchcock said they had not looked at it, it was not on the original list.

Councilor Monroe asked Mr. Ciecko about the reserves, which were being depleted at about \$1 million a year.

Mr. Ciecko said that there was about two more years of reserves left.

Councilor Monroe asked about funding this program, maximizing tax authority under excise tax that would almost double the amount that was being collected.

Mr. Stone said Councilor Monroe was correct, you would be within the cap. The matter could be referred to the voters.

Councilor Monroe applauded the work of the Green Ribbon Committee. The funding was the major issue. He agreed that the solid waste community must be involved if they were talking about excise tax. He urged caution because of the economic uncertainties.

Councilor Burkholder also thanked the committee and the Presiding Officer for starting this effort.

Councilor King said what they had to work with was what the region gave themselves in 1995. None of these properties would be lost. She encouraged another bond measure to allow more procurement. This was truly a gift to our future generations.

Councilor Monroe said he had been there in 1995 when they went for the bond measure. That had been delineated as Phase 1. When those resources were depleted their hope was to have a subsequent bond measure.

Councilor King thanked the Parks and Acquisition group at Metro. The money had been well spent.

Councilor Atherton commented about the trails system. The regional trunk trail system was very possible.

Presiding Officer Bragdon acknowledged the outstanding job the Green Ribbon Committee had done.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Consideration of minutes of the October 25, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion: **Councilor Burkholder** moved to adopt the meeting minutes of the October 25, 2001, Regular Council meeting.

Vote: The vote was 5 aye/ 0 nay/ 1 abstain. Councilor Hosticka abstained and the motion passed.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

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Councilor Monroe briefed the council on JPACT proceedings.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Prepared by

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2001

TOPIC	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATION REPORT	11/101	MEMO FROM JOHN HOUSER TO THE COUNCILORS CONCERNING STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS	110101c-01
GREEN RIBBON COMMITTEE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS	11/1/01	SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHARGE, MEMBERSHIP, RECOMMENDATIONS, FUNDING MECHANISMS AND MAPS OF DRAFT SITES	110101c-02
MINUTES	10/25/01	MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING FOF 10/25/01	110101c-03