

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:04 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 10, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the January 10, 2008 Metro Council agenda.

Mike Hoglund, Director of Solid Waste and Recycling, discussed the Waste Transport Contract and issues related to sustainability. Councilor Harrington asked about the public hearing and about the Waste Transport Contract resolution on the January 10th Council meeting agenda.

Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, and Alison Kean-Campbell, Metro Senior Assistant Attorney, answered the question of how someone becomes officially authorized to represent Metro at an event related to economic development issues or other similar issues. Mr. Cooper noted the Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) is hosting an event that fits within the economic development category and some councilors may want to participate. The Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC) may not be authorized to go and do not have the ability to authorize their Chief Executive Officer to attend the event. Mr. Cooper noted that if anyone chose to do that, they could authorize people to go to the event and eat meals. Mr. Cooper clarified that he wanted to bring this up on January 8, 2008 so that anyone who wanted to attend the event, could attend. Mr. Cooper identified other situations that need authorizations to attend.

President Bragdon asked if the authorization covered the year or if it was an event-by-event authorization process.

Councilor Liberty asked if the Metro budget should just pay for it, instead of going through the hassle of authorization. Mr. Cooper said the Council may want to do this, but some events do not allow attendee payment all the time. Councilor Liberty asked about receiving warnings for different events, so that issues do not arise. Mr. Cooper stated this was a good point and idea.

Councilor Harrington asked about which events this applies to.

Mrs. Kean-Campbell laid out ground rules for consideration when Councilors attend an event that involves receiving any item of worth, including meals. She further directed Councilors to refer to the policy in correlation to each event.

Councilor Harrington requested an electronic copy of the draft rules and policy. Councilor Harrington further requested that the Councilors discuss this topic together. President Bragdon

requested that they discuss this on January 10th or at a later date. Mr. Cooper noted this was a good idea. Councilors expressed some logistical concerns with various aspects of the policy.

Michael Jordan, Metro Chief Operating Officer, wanted to check that Councilors received information for the Council membership discussion occurring on January 10th, 2008.

2. 2008-09 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Jordan introduced the presentation. He further noted that the Budget would return to Council on January 29th to present. Mr. Jordan stated they were on a very critical path in the process. He asked if the Councilors were ready to engage in the topic during the Work Session meeting. Councilors said they were.

Mr. Hoglund presented a Powerpoint presentation entitled 'Sustainability Lessons.' He noted that it revolves around his background working with different groups within Metro (i.e. the Green Team). He said the presentation was developed around different definitions of sustainability in other organizations and other governments. He thought it was important to understand and have perspective (see attachment).

Mr. Jordan added that regarding sustainability it was important to understand and clarify where Metro wanted to go. He said there were two levels of conversation to be had about this topic; internal goals related to business practices, and external goals relating to Metro's role in regional sustainability.

Councilor Harrington noted electronic documents over paper documents as a sustainable direction.

Jeff Tucker, Parks Finance Manager, talked about critical success factors surrounding sustainability. He asked what would happen if Councilors took their goals and objectives and put them through a sustainable 'lens.' Mr. Tucker explained the sustainability attachment and explained the process behind developing the 'Metro Goals and Sustainability – Discussion' (see attachment). Mr. Tucker clarified that some of the goals and objectives were taken from the example of Vancouver. Mr. Jordan noted when looking at the attachment, to identify where sustainability alignment comes into the picture.

Councilor Hosticka commented that the sustainability goals parallel the performance-based growth management plan. Councilor Collette agreed with Councilor Hosticka, and further noted that 'Metro Goals and Sustainability' could essentially act as a model for other performance-growth management plans. Councilor Liberty noted that making it more succinct was good. He additionally noted two big areas – how we plan for growth and solid waste in regards to planning in a sustainable fashion, and the factor of consumption trends. Councilor Liberty also talked about how some specific issues provide a platform. Councilor Hosticka noted that there is an opportunity to include the ecological footprint into a sustainable plan, and that there was an opportunity to measure this. Councilor Liberty noted the agricultural land around us as very ecologically unique – regarding inputs, forestry issues, and other surrounding land issues. Councilor Harrington noted that in general she was supportive of aligning Council goals with these principles. She does not want to support the draft without seeing a final, full set. With the performance measures project, she said there is room for aligning things in a clear picture as well. She noted that it was important when making decisions about this to keep perspective of the larger context. Second, she noted that Metro needed to be careful in increasing different levels of

planning productivity, and she commented that how Metro went about this was important for the residents of the region.

Mr. Jordan said one of the issues with this draft was how to get people to align their decisions in accordance with a draft such as this. Councilor Harrington again stressed the importance of context and balance. Councilor Burkholder stated that we are behind and not necessarily leading anyone. Councilor Burkholder noted that the Council was examining Metro's role rather than concentrating on how to lead. Councilor Burkholder stated he does not want the Greatest Place name to get lost in discussions, and noted a challenge to this draft was to decide directions to go in the future. He talked about housing and transportation's role in the draft, and discussed it as an example for a direction for the future.

Councilor Park disagreed and stated that he believed that we have been leading since 1995. He noted that the rural lands piece still needs to be thought about in terms of measurement and different contextual uses, as well as its role in directional sustainability. Councilor Park noted that it may not be known when the different pieces will move ahead, but at least the different components would be moving ahead appropriately in a proper policy direction.

Mr. Jordan said the Council had an opportunity to use regulatory authority to incent certain behavior. This required effort, he said. President Bragdon said public opinion can be changed and was an important aspect of sustainability in regards to how the public perceives and reacts to the issue of sustainability.

Mr. Tucker explained the Council may or may not have a lot of say in different public policy components. He asked whether Metro was measuring things that have a direct policy relationship with the agency, or whether the agency was measuring things that Metro has little policy regulation over.

Councilor Harrington said that a valid first step would be to conduct an inventory. Councilor Hosticka noted there are connections between policy that we have a lot of regulation over and policy that we do not have much regulation over. He used health care as an example. Councilor Burkholder said one of our functions in this region was measurement – and that Metro may not have much impact, but it is a responsibility to track, whether Metro is working on it or not. He said it was more important in regards to what we want to achieve.

Councilor Liberty said it was important to understand that things we have been doing have been contributing to the solution already, and this may not be seen. Councilor Park talked about the educational factor. He suggested that individuals be allowed to put their input into the development of a model and to see how that affected their ecological footprint. He noted Eugene was doing this as well as different websites. Councilors expressed that they think Metro should have something like this as well.

Mr. Jordan noted that in regards to the draft, revisions and realignment need to occur. Mr. Jordan noted two different categories: communications and expansion. A logistical concern Mr. Jordan expressed was the inclusion of sustainability in the budget, possibly a full-time employee (FTE) for sustainability, and align business practices around these ideas. Mr. Jordan noted that Metro was at the edge, and the agency needed to keep that in mind when shifting resources. He noted that if the agency were to raise money, it could not be spent. Mr. Jordan talked about resource prioritization, and the oversubscription of Metro. He wanted to provide a context of the cycle.

Councilor Burkholder asked whether Metro's spending cap was based on excise tax. Grants and other similar revenues could be spent, according to Mr. Jordan.

3. BREAK

4. URBAN/RURAL RESERVES RULEMAKING

Randy Tucker, Public Affairs Department, said that Dick Benner, Senior Attorney, has been very important and reliable in this process. Mr. Tucker said the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) will be moving to Gresham on January 23rd and at some point will adopt rules. Mr. Tucker went through the three rules on the memo (see attachment). He provided the processes involved in the memo and gave background information and clarification surrounding issues in the memo.

Councilor Burkholder asked if the rule had any new requirements regarding urban and rural reserve designation. He noted it was up to the existing UGB process. Councilor Harrington thanked members of the work crew and staff for their hard work and resolving different issues. Mr. Tucker gave others credit in the process. Councilor Liberty asked about Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) land planning processes in regards to language. Councilor Liberty wanted language clarification. Mr. Tucker provided clarification. Councilor Park asked about language in issue number two (see attachment). Mr. Benner noted that throughout the process areas would constantly be subject to comparisons. Councilor Park again asked about language. Mr. Tucker clarified.

Mr. Tucker noted next steps (see attachment). Mr. Tucker flagged the second and fourth bullets, and explained further information regarding factors and other specifics. The factors for consideration were not criteria that must be met for every reserve, but were also criteria not to be overlooked. They were real, but there was some flexibility, Mr. Tucker explained.

Councilor Collette would like 'livable communities' language to be included. She noted that the goal of balancing was to attain 'livable communities' and 'vitality,' etc. Mr. Tucker noted this importance. Councilor Collette secondly noted that she would like public input and influence to be stressed. She would like public input to be effective, and part of the process. Mr. Tucker said this would be highlighted and processes continue to be developed.

Councilor Harrington explained her draft 'Reserves Steering Committee Membership Nominations.' Councilor Park noted that there was only one nominee for agriculture, and other sections of agriculture require representation. Councilor Harrington noted the argument. Councilor Park explained his argument for expansion of the committee. Councilor Collette did not know if the committee could be expanded but explained her position on representative selection, and addressed Councilor Park's concerns. Councilor Burkholder noted the role of representatives to provide input. Councilor Harrington noted that the seats were not weighted by perspective, and input was important regardless. Mr. Jordan supported Councilor Park that agriculture needed better representation. Councilor Harrington noted there had been requests to expand the committee. Councilor Liberty asked if the agricultural community was feeling under-represented. Councilor Park said he felt there would be voiced concern from the ag-community about under-representation in the future.

President Bragdon shared the disappointment in not having a range of business people, but stated only the applications received could be utilized currently.

Councilor Park again expressed concern for an additional agriculture representative. Councilor Liberty said he would like to see what happens, but if there were an unfavorable reaction, the Council should come back and examine the issue.

5. NATURAL AREAS CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY DIRECTION

Councilor Harrington said five of seven councilors were part of framing the bond measure. She explained the bond measure and that the intent was formalized. She explained what motivated the proposal. Councilor Burkholder talked about the clarity of intent and the existence of targets. Councilor Harrington noted numbers were expressed during refinement periods.

Jim Desmond, Parks Director, talked about acreage goals and explained the measure process. Councilor Burkholder stated that not all target areas were created equal. Councilor Liberty asked about numbers. Councilor Burkholder and Councilor Harrington explained. Mr. Desmond noted that we would not walk away from an incredible opportunity in a known target area.

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Metro Bond Program Manager, said there were two reasons she was speaking before the Council. The first was discussing conservation easements; the second was to amend acquisition components. She explained what the amendment would do and what specifically she was discussing in regards to conservation easements (refer to attachment).

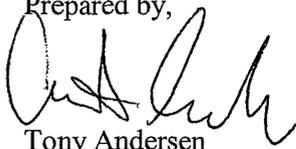
Councilor Hosticka said the tool might not be as attractive as originally planned. Councilor Liberty said he thought we should do it, but not necessarily administer it. President Bragdon liked the material and said it was helpful. He further noted it was a valuable tool to have in the toolkit, but to streamline it. Ms. Brennan-Hunter noted there were some unique situations that may require Council discussion. Councilor Burkholder noted that monitoring and comparisons were needed. Councilor Collette viewed this as a tool of last resort. Councilor Park noted that without the other tool there might not be the ability to connect with other lands, or with other funds from other programs.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JANUARY 8, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	1/10/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, January 10, 2008	010808cw-1
2	Memo	1/07/08	To: Metro Councilors, MERC Commissioners, Metro Council Staff, OMA From: Alison Kean Campbell Re: Ethics for Public Officials, January 7, 2008	010808cw-2
2	Powerpoint presentation	1/08/08	Presentation: Sustainability Lessons Metro, January 8, 2008	010808cw-3
2	Memo	1/08/08	Memo: Metro Goals and Sustainability – Discussion, January 8, 2008	010808cw-4
4	Memo	1/08/08	To: Metro Council From: Randy Tucker Re: Update on status of reserves rulemaking, January 8, 2008	010808cw-5
4	Statement	1/07/08	Statement: Reserves Steering Committee Membership Nominations	010808cw-6
5	E-mail	1/08/08	To: Rex Burkholder From: Carol L. Chesarek Re: Proposed changes to Natural Areas Bond money allocation, January 8, 2008	010808cw-7
5	Draft	1/08/08	Draft: Conservation easement parameters, January 8, 2008	010808cw-8