

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008
Room 270

Members present: JC Kizak (Acting Chair), Judy Andreen, Hal Ballard, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Chory Ferguson, John Kilian, Segeni Mungai, Skip White, Chris Welling, Karen Wolfgang

Members absent: Virginia Bruce, Malek Hall, Gerritt Rosenthal

Also present: Ben Dupree, Seth Otto, interested citizens, Norm Andreen

Call to order, review of agenda, approval of Nov. 7 and Dec. 5, 2007 meeting minutes, introductions, announcements

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Chair Kizak introduced the visitors and explained a little about what the committee does for their benefit.

Motion:

Chory Ferguson moved, with a second by Hal Ballard, to approve the Nov. 7, 2007 minutes as presented.

Vote:

The vote was 10 aye/0 nay. The motion passed unanimously.

Urban/rural reserves

Kathryn Harrington, Metro councilor from district 4, and Ken Ray, public affairs staff, presented an overview of urban and rural reserves. Urban reserves are areas outside the current urban growth boundary (UGB) designated as lands that could be brought into the UGB in the future to accommodate growth. Rural reserves are lands protected to maintain their rural character and agricultural economy. Handouts were distributed and referred to during the presentation.

Councilor Harrington explained the multifaceted, multiyear program that means to do a better job at the region's growth management in the future. With House Bill 2051, the periodic review got a 2 year extension, which means that the Metro council will have time to find better decision-making tools for defining urban and rural reserves. The council wants to set aside some rural lands in reserve to protect them from urban growth over the next 40-50 years.

The MCCI was very concerned that there is no representation for unincorporated areas in the discussions taking place between the counties and Metro. The general consensus of the committee was that, since rural communities would be affected far more than any city, rural communities need to have at least an equal voice in the process or it would be slanted from the cities' point of view from the beginning. Without the rural communities being involved in the discussions, it would be a flawed and unsuccessful process.

Councilor Harrington commented that the three counties are also doing their own public outreach and the Core 4 (Councilor Harrington from Metro, Commissioner Martha Schrader from Clackamas County, Commissioner Tom Brian from Washington County and Commissioner Jeff Cogan from Multnomah County) and the Reserves Steering Committee are working on a coordinated public involvement plan for this effort. She will return to MCCI in February with information on the studies and bring a draft Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the committee to study and provide recommendations and feedback to her at the March meeting.

There was committee discussion regarding lack of participation for rural areas. In Clackamas county, there is a greater population in unincorporated cities than incorporated. Some weight needs to be given

to those unincorporated areas. This is the largest citizen involvement issue in a long time. If it is not done correctly, there will be a lot of unhappy citizens. The affected areas need representation at the table at the beginning instead of responding or defending later. They are key partners. A rural voice is definitely needed at the table. Unincorporated areas are different than rural areas, the committee agreed. Both of those groups need direct access to helping plan. .

Ken Ray reported that a website with information regarding this process will be up in the next two weeks and will be linked to the three county site as well.

Committee officers

The committee discussed the duties and obligations of officers, from keeping the meeting running smoothly to helping plan agendas. After reviewing the responsibilities listed in the by-laws, it was concluded that some work needs to be done on the by-laws themselves in the near future. Discussion of by-laws will be taken up at the February meeting as an agenda item.

JC Kizak and Karen Wolfgang agreed to continue as co-chairs through 2008. Appointments were made to the Steering Committee as follows: John Kilian as liaison to the Parks and Greenspaces department; Skip White to the Planning and Transportation department; Segeni Mungai to Solid Waste and Recycling, and Hal Ballard as steering committee member at-large.

Motion:

Hal Ballard moved, with a second by Segeni Mungai, to approve JC Kizak and Karen Wolfgang as Chair and Vice Chair in title, respectively, but to allow them to serve as co-chairs.
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Vote:

The vote was 10 aye/0 nay. The motion passed unanimously.

Roundtable

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Grant
MCCI staff