

MINUTES OF THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
REGULAR COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 19, 2005
Room 270

Members Present: Scott Seibert (Chair), Norm Andreen (Vice Chair), Kathy Henton, Dick Jones, JC Kizak, Moji Momeni, Christine Roth, Ed Rutledge, Kate Schiele, Skip White

Members Excused: Dresden Skees Gregory, Angela Rysdam

Members Absent: Elizabeth Tucker, David Posalski

Also Present: Metro staff Gina Whitehill-Baziuk and Cheryl Grant, Dave Unsworth and Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder, Kathryn Harrington, interested citizen

Call to order/Introductions & Welcome/Appointment of Timekeeper

Chair Siebert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves for the benefit of the visitors. Moji Momeni was appointed timekeeper.

It was noted that Angela Rysdam has asked to be excused from the next three meetings as she has a mandatory class that interferes with MCCI meeting times. The committee agreed she could miss the meetings without penalty.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of November 17, 2004 minutes

Motion: Christine Roth moved, with a second from Dick Jones, to approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Momeni noted that his comment commending the Office of Citizen Involvement for their extraordinary efforts on Highway 217 was not noted in his liaison report in these minutes.

Vote: The vote to approve the minutes was 9 aye/0 nay/0 abstain. The motion passed.
Kate Schiele was absent from the vote

Several committee members voiced their dissatisfaction that the only way to attend Council President Bragdon's State of the Region speech appeared to be by paying \$20 for lunch in order to get in. It was unclear on the flyer whether one could observe without buying lunch. It was the consensus of the group that having to pay to hear the speech was not okay. Besides the cost to attend, the timing of the speech and the venue were issues. The lunch hour does not lend itself to public involvement as it deprives a lot of folks from attending because of work. The committee felt the speech should be open to anyone who wants to listen. They took offense that there was a sponsorship of the event because the speech is for all of the voting citizens of the region, not just a select few. The process did not feel "citizen friendly". The committee hoped that the council would take note of these concerns.

The committee discussed various ways the state of the region speech could be made more accessible to the general public without having to pay, including the possibility of televising it or broadcasting it on the radio as the City Club does their Friday forums.

Chair Report

Chair Seibert said the City Club would be talking about their Portland Development Commission report at this Friday's meeting.

Chair Seibert commented about the need for minimum public involvement standards, which started a discussion about the Beaverton annexation process. Mr. Jones reminded the committee there had been talk of annexation for quite a while but people sometimes don't pay attention unless they are immediately affected and miss the fact that something important is happening. They miss their opportunity to comment. Mr. Momeni said he also remembered those discussions. The committee expressed concern regarding the possibility that Washington County and some cities were entering into agreements that would circumvent public involvement, which goes against Goal 1 of Oregon's land use laws. Chair Seibert said this discussion only reaffirms the importance of the work the committee is doing in regard to minimum public involvement practices.

Councilor Communication

Rex Burkholder, Councilor from District 5, recognized that sometimes projects take a lot of lead time to plan and put together and by the time the project actually starts, it could be several years later and the public comment period could be forgotten. He said that tension would always be there and agreed that minimum standards would be a really good discussion to have. He reiterated that people had to recognize that projects take a long time from beginning to end.

Councilor Burkholder told the committee about his responsibilities for the coming year. He has been appointed Deputy Council President. He is working closely with Council President Bragdon on development of the budget and inter-council relations. He is chairing the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) this year and is on the Bi-State committee, mainly looking at the I-5 bridge project with officials from Washington state. He will be involved with a revived housing committee, developing Metro's approach to key concerns about affordable housing. He commented on the agency strategic plan and that the council is in the process of reviewing 2040 issues.

Chair Seibert asked for clarification regarding the streetcar to Lake Oswego. He said he had seen posters presented by Metro staff about what it would look like but the MCCI had not heard anything about a public involvement plan for the project. Councilor Burkholder said there had been a transportation alternatives analysis done but as far as the council is concerned, the eastside streetcar is not an official project.

Councilor Burkholder responded to questions about several other issues, including Clackamas Town Center, affordable housing and public involvement processes.

OCI Report

- I-205/Portland Mall light rail project EIS

Dave Unsworth, corridor planning, reviewed the information included in the I-205/Portland Mall light rail project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He screened a presentation showing details of the EIS and explained the technical information included in the report.

- Centers program

Kelley Webb reported on details of the Get Centered! program which will begin February 3. She distributed handouts with information about the campaign and a calendar of events and pointed the committee to the online calendar where all of the information is available.

- Highway 217 PIP

Ms. Whitehill-Baziuk said this information had been included in the agenda packet that was mailed to the committee, and since tonight's meeting agenda was running behind, she offered to answer pressing questions tonight and put this item back on the agenda for further discussion at the February meeting. She explained why the committee had chosen the options they had put forth. She commented that all three options would be treated equally for technical analysis. She showed the large comment book and talked about cost savings, including mailing and production costs, by producing it on CD rather than in print.

- IAP2 workshop

Ms. Whitehill-Baziuk distributed flyers about the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) international conference coming to Portland in October. She did not feel the committee was far enough along with their work to try for a best practices minimum standards session at the conference. She encouraged the committee to read the information to learn what's going on in other places.

Mission statement review

Vice Chair Andreen led an exercise to aid understanding of the MCCI's mission statement and purpose. The results of the exercise will be discussed at the February MCCI meeting.

Department Liaison reports

Christine Roth, parks department liaison, reported on the Smith and Bybee Lakes wildlife center grand opening and an upcoming feasibility study about connecting the 40-mile Loop trail and the Smith and Bybee Lakes trail.

She reported that the Cooper Mountain master plan is being written and that public involvement is pretty well finished. The plan will be available in April and will go to council for approval in June. She commented that Cooper Mountain had been part of an open space bond and that the council is currently talking about another acquisition bond in 2006, for which planning will have to be done in 2005. In response to a maintenance question, she said the \$1.50 increase in the solid waste tip fee would go partly to maintenance of open spaces.

Public comment/Roundtable

Mr. Andreen commented that he had lost two cars and a garage roof to the windstorm about six weeks ago, and then a friend's car was crushed when he came to help remove debris from the storm and a limb fell on his car.

Ms. Henton reported that Gresham has a ballot measure to annex out their fire services to district 10, that their budget process had a \$5 million shortfall, that there was a major battle to site the justice center, and that the City of Gresham has dissolved their citizen involvement committee in favor of a commission which may be filled and activated in April or by the end of the year. She was concerned that there is currently no formal citizen involvement committee with all the stuff Gresham has going on.

Mr. Rutledge said he was asked to serve on a legislative advisory committee regarding Measure 37. He thought it would be interesting to see how the measure would roll out for Metro and the jurisdictions.

Mr. White reported that the bridge committee is meeting to talk about cutting costs on the new bridge on Sauvie Island. He said there would be a "raptor event" on the island February 5 including lectures on migrating raptors.

Ms. Roth reported that Lake Oswego has decided to form an affordable housing task force. She said the Clackamas CCI goes before the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners on February 2 with their

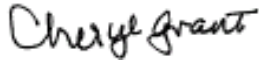
annual report detailing the previous year and requesting support from the commissioners on upcoming issues.

Kate Schiele wanted the committee to know that, contrary to what some people might believe, she had not played a role in the Measure 37 issue.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Siebert adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Grant
Office of Citizen Involvement
MCCI staff