

MINUTES OF THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
REGULAR COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 16, 2005
Room 270

Members Present: Scott Seibert (Chair), Norm Andreen (Vice Chair), Dresden Skees Gregory, Kathy Henton, Dick Jones, JC Kizak, Christine Roth, Ed Rutledge, Skip White

Members Excused: Moji Momeni, Angela Rysdam, David Posalski, Kate Schiele

Also Present: Metro staff Cheryl Grant and Dave Unsworth, Public Affairs and Government Relations Director Kate Marx, Chief Operating Officer Michael Jordan, and Jamie Magdovitz, Erin Cook and Kate Warren, prospective MCCI members

Call to order/Introductions & Welcome/Appointment of Timekeeper

Chair Siebert called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Kathy Henton was appointed timekeeper.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of February 16, 2005 minutes

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

Vote: The vote to approve the minutes was 7 aye/0 nay/0 abstain. The motion passed. Skip White and JC Kizak were absent from the vote.

OCI report

- Keyhole demonstration
- Nature in Neighborhoods PI plan

Dave Unsworth from the planning department demonstrated a new technology tool they are using to do citizen outreach when planning a project. He used the streetcar connection demonstration going over the Broadway bridge from the Pearl to Lloyd Center to present the technology which gives citizens a feel for what a project will look like.

Kate Marx presented information about the Nature in Neighborhoods public involvement plan. The technology demonstrated by Mr. Unsworth will be used to help people understand how their property could possibly be affected by council decisions. She distributed a Nature in Neighborhoods task list of staff work and outreach opportunities that will take place between now and the May 19th council decision. Chair Seibert commented that this was the first time the committee had seen the list in this format. He commented that the press makes it sound like this is a done deal. Ms. Marx responded that project staff has been talking to stakeholders and discussing the details of the functional plan in many venues over many months.

There was committee discussion regarding whether or not people will understand that what used to be Goal 5 is now being called Nature in Neighborhoods. As most Oregonians are into fish and wildlife, they know about Goal 5. Nature in Neighborhoods won't have universal meaning to Oregon land use ideas. They wanted to make sure people understand the name changed, not the model. Ms. Marx said there would have to be some explanation, but the council favors this packaging for what they are interested in accomplishing.

The committee was excited about the plan to participate in the Natural Style trade show with a Nature in Neighborhoods pavilion as people other than those typically reached by Metro's outreach process could be made aware of the process.

Chair Report

None.

Chief Operating Officer Communication

There was discussion regarding the committee's work on best practices for public involvement and MCCI's role in creating regional standards. Mr. Jordan said he had been involved in many sizes of governments and this committee is the best there is. One challenge is how to create a consistency in the public involvement process across the region. He thought this committee could help make a better environment for citizens to get involved and help them understand linkages between regional and local governments. Chair Seibert offered kudos to the Metro staff for such outreach efforts as the Coffee Talks and the Highway 217 billboards, which are truly cutting edge. He said the one thing the committee is finding is that people don't have time to get involved if it doesn't affect them. The committee wants to educate people about how to affect decisions. He urged Metro to educate people about the criteria on which final decisions will be based so citizens don't just come in front of the council and tell personal stories, which are not helpful to the process.

Mr. Jordan said he knew there hadn't been many public involvement plans (PIPs) coming to the committee and explained the Council's plan for engaging the community differently to come to informed consent around decisions of complicated issues. He said it hadn't quite been worked out yet, but they would be needing MCCI's help in the new ways of engaging. There was committee discussion regarding the best practices work and ways to engage the jurisdictions and neighborhood groups.

Best Practices discussion

- identify questions for small group sessions

Vice Chair Andreen reviewed the committee goal to work on best practices for public involvement. This brainstorming session began to formulate some discussion items to guide conversation in meetings with neighborhood groups, CPOs and counties about their public involvement processes. The following discussion items were offered as a beginning point:

- define good public involvement
- what was your best public involvement experience, why was it good, and why did you think it went well
- do you feel your organization is able to affect public policy in any way or do you just rubber stamp issues.
- do you have access to staff and public officials and are they responsive to your requests for information?
- for county officials, how does your jurisdiction fulfill the state mandated Goal 1 which says you will have a citizen involvement committee?
- what was your worst public involvement experience and what did you learn from it?
- what was the biggest public involvement disaster you turned into a win?

Additional questions will be formulated in the near future and the committee will decide on a set of questions for the meetings.

Mission statement review

None.

Nominating Committee update

Ms. Roth reported that the committee had not yet met. Chair Seibert said he hoped to have the new officers in place in time for a smooth transition at the June meeting. He asked the nominating committee to start the process by e-mail or phone and have nominations ready for a vote at the April meeting and have a "transition month" for the new officers. Ms. Roth said she would send an e-mail to the committee with instructions for nominations.

Department Liaison reports

- Planning
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Parks

Chair Seibert read Mr. Momeni's e-mail report on planning issues: At last month's meeting the Highway 217 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) comments were made that the plan lacked discussion of Option 3 which requires no tolling. To the best of his knowledge, Mr. Momeni said, nothing is planned for discussing options for financing Option 3 (expanding Highway 217 without toll fees).

Mr. Andreen reviewed the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan update for the committee. He said it is a great format for a report and hoped that other departments would be doing the same kind of thing. Ms. Marx responded that this was a major undertaking and was not a standard practice. Mr. Andreen suggested all of the departments use it as a guide for reporting as even a layman could understand.

Ms. Roth reported that the Cooper Mountain Master Plan would be available for public review in May or June. The Metro Council will be in retreat next week to talk about a potential open space bond measure in 2006 after which they will be coming to MCCI for input. A public outreach for Nature in Neighborhoods is upcoming and there will be an open space acquisition celebration soon. The new GreenScene is out. Ron Klein's last day in the Parks department is April 15 when Heather Nelson Kent will be the contact person for MCCI.

Public comment/Roundtable

Ms. Roth said the Clackamas CCI had a meeting with CPO chairs to talk about hamlet and village models of governance. She said they were having a Measure 37 forum the following week for all CPOs and have invited the Clackamas County attorney and two senior planners to talk about what the Measure means to the county. She said about 50 people had signed up so far.

Ms. Henton reported that Gresham has eliminated six positions from their staff including the citizen involvement coordinator who has been there for 17 years. She said they are still setting up citizen commission members. She said she is pushing for an assessment of public involvement in Gresham.

Mr. Jones reported that the sewer vote a week ago was defeated by 81 percent with a 40 percent turnout. He said it was the only item on the ballot. He talked about annexation and the public involvement issues it brings.

Mr. White said someone had just filed to build a home on the island, and that it will be very carefully monitored. He reported that the drainage district was currently working on their dikes. He said the Island Boosters Association is taking a keen interest in what goes on at MCCI and Metro. There are some Metro installations on Sauvie Island. The Bybee Howell property is operated by Metro as a park. He commented

that the Oregon Historical Society is supposed to be responsible for the property but they are not, Metro is taking care of it.

Ms. Skees Gregory said she is changing jobs but will still be active on the MCCI. She is going to Portland State University as their sustainability coordinator, starting Monday. She reported that Washington County has lost some of their CPOs, and that will hopefully prompt Hillsboro to do something. She said they are battling their own Measure 37 issues now, and they have the most claims. She said other big issues are annexations and Intel and their tax breaks.

Chair Seibert reported that the seven-story parking garage on Northwest Twenty-third Street had been stopped for the present time and that the current City Council would be taking another look at it. Mr. Seibert thought the new council seemed more willing to listen to business groups and neighbors on the subject.

Potential new committee members Erin Cook, Jamie Magdovitz and Kate Warren told the committee a little about themselves. Ms. Cook is a property owner in West Linn and works in Tualatin. She is passionate about public policy. She worked at Metro for a time as an intern in Solid Waste and saw an MCCI opening on the website, so applied. Ms. Magdovitz has recently moved to the area from Memphis and is starting law school at Lewis and Clark. She is working on her Masters of City and Regional Planning. Ms. Warren is an Oregon native, from a big family of public policy buffs. She takes pride in the fact that the City of Portland, where she grew up, is proactive in their efforts to create a livable place. She feels she has a lot to learn from participation in this committee.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Siebert adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Grant
MCCI staff