

**MINUTES OF THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
REGULAR COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 15, 2005
Room 270

Members Present: Christine Roth (Chair), Norm Andreen, Eric Cook, Dresden Skees Gregory, Kathy Henton, JC Kizak, Angela Rysdam, Scott Seibert, Kate Warren, Skip White

Members Excused: Dick Jones, Jamie Magadovitz, Ed Rutledge (Vice Chair)

Members absent: David Polsalski, Kate Schiele

Also Present: Metro staff Gina Whitehill-Baziuk, Cheryl Grant, Amelia Porterfield, Robin Hawley, Councilor Brian Newman

Call to order/Introductions & Welcome/Appointment of Timekeeper

Chair Roth called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of May 18, 2005 minutes

Motion/ Hearing no additions or deletions, Chair Roth declared the minutes approved as presented.
Vote:

Chair Report

None.

Councilor communication

District 2 Councilor Brian Newman updated the committee on the council's Nature in Neighborhoods work and the budget. He said an amended version of the Nature in Neighborhoods was currently before council and they are working on the technical pieces. He reported that the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) has approved the budget and council is scheduled to adopt it at their June 23 meeting. He talked about a potential new parks acquisition bond measure and a poll currently gathering information about the public's feelings about that. He said there would be a huge public involvement piece if they decided to go with it. There was discussion about another bond measure for acquisition and the public's perception that there is all this land from the previous bond measure that is not accessible to the public. Councilor Newman explained that not all of the land acquired had been intended for public use but as habitat protection. He agreed it was important that the public should be aware of that.

Department Liaison reports

- Solid Waste and Recycling

Robin Hawley from the Solid Waste department talked about business recycling efforts. Free recycling boxes are being distributed to businesses. There are billboards, a website (recycleatwork.com) and other outreach efforts. MCCI member Angela Rysdam commented that she is working on this as part of her "real life" job. Ms. Hawley said this is the second campaign

and started in April. She said their recovery goal is 62 percent by the end of 2005 and they need an additional 2,000 tons from businesses to meet that goal. Two hundred four businesses have contacted the department this round in addition to the 504 from the last campaign. The project runs through the end of August.

Angela Rysdam reported that the compost bin sale had been very successful, the hazardous waste round-ups had good turnouts, and the recycled paint enterprise is showing growth, both with people recycling more and buying more recycled paint.

- Planning

None.

- Parks

None.

OCI Report

- Centers

Kelley Webb talked about the Get Centered program and the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program. She reported on the success of the Get Centered events that are part of the education and outreach to show examples of successful projects around the region. The plan was to take developers, bankers and electeds and others to some of the centers to see examples of these projects. There is also a brown bag lunch series discussion the challenges, i.e., parking, financing. There was discussion regarding land economics, sites that work and sites that don't.

- Title 6

Gina Whitehill-Baziuk reported that metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), which is Metro for this region, have to do self certifications with the federal government. The last reporting time, Metro received an A+ on citizen outreach. This reporting is different in that the agency's Title 6 and the Environmental Justice plans have to be included. A Metro diversity committee has been formed to do the work and a draft plan for the agency has been drawn up identifying areas that are civil rights issues. An e-mail version was sent to MCCI members for review. The document distributed at this meeting was updated from that.

- County fairs

Amelia Porterfield fro the council office talked about the county fairs and Councilor Susan McLain's request for MCCI volunteers for the fair booths.

A discussion of future agenda items showed the committee's interest in Metro advisory committees and how they are filled, an update on the St. Johns landfill, a rumored compost plant on Columbia Boulevard and the Lake Oswego transit corridor

Region-wide public involvement standard/best practices committee update

Chair Roth reviewed the draft questions that the subcommittee (Chair Roth and members Cook, Henton and Rutledge) had come up with as well as the draft outline of how they would like to proceed with this project. They are interested in having a series of focus groups with staff, citizens and elected officials sometime in the fall to discuss these questions and then they will formulate minimum

standards for best practices. They are currently working on a list of folks they will invite. The questions will be provided to the invitees ahead of the meeting so they can prepare their responses. She asked the committee to review the list of names and add or delete as needed. The goal is late September or early October for the focus groups and they would like to send preliminary letters toward the end of fall.

Public comment/Roundtable

Skip White reported on a land use hearing regarding the Sauvie Island bridge at which a 100+ page application was submitted without any contact with any of the landowners whose property they would use. They hadn't even asked for permission from the property owners to do a survey on their property. He said they could lose their federal funding for the bridge. The hearings officer held open the hearing for response by county by this Friday and rebuttal the following Friday. At a meeting on the third Friday, both sides will make their presentations. He said the hearing had only been advertised by a sign on the bridge and that Commissioner Rojo de Steffey didn't even know about it. It was a Multnomah County hearing.

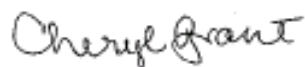
Scott Seibert commented that a lot of government bodies believe citizen involvement is too expensive. He agreed with Skip that it is more expensive not to involve citizens well up front of a project. For instance, the Portland Department of Transportation had finally admitted they should have done a better job of public involvement regarding the work on 23rd Street and that the project ended up costing them more because they didn't.

Dresden Skees Gregory reported that Portland State University is participating in a composting pilot project that is being very well received by the community. She announced she will not participate on the committee for a second term and this would be her last meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Roth adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Grant
MCCI staff