

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2006
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Norm Andreen, Hal Ballard, Virginia Bruce, Chory Ferguson, Malek Hall, JC Kizak, Mark Knudesen, Erin Miller, Gerritt Rosenthal, Skip White, Karen Wolfgang

Members absent: Christine Roth

Members excused: Scott Seibert

Also present: Councilor Robert Liberty, Metro staff Kate Marx, Pat Emmerson, Mike Hogle, Sue Gemmell, Cheryl Grant.

Call to order, review of agenda, approval of Oct. 4, 2006 meeting minutes

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Introductions were made and Chair Warren reviewed the agenda. Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the minutes of the October meeting approved as presented. The MCCI purpose was reviewed.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Robert Liberty introduced himself and talked about his background. He reported on several citizen involvement opportunities and how to participate in implementing the 2040 growth projects. He gave a brief history on the council.

Councilor Liberty discussed citizen opportunities to participate in implementing 2040 growth projects. He reviewed a map of the proposed 2040 plan for growth in the future. He said the map had been confirmed by Council. He reviewed and explained city and regional centers. If you look out 25 years, they were envisioning about 5-6 counties in the region, and not necessarily a UGB. He discussed density and sprawl. He wondered how people could participate in making those decisions. Planning efforts and visioning had been done. He spoke of other places and how they were planning for future growth such as Denver. He talked about moderated blogs as a means to reach out to the public. He also mentioned a web site called flickr where folks could send photos to demonstrate what they hope to see their communities look like. He talked about other web sites and software possibilities for outreach and planning. He said that the web presence and specialized software were tools that could help them envision and create scenarios for future possibilities.

Norm Andreen asked if he was looking for someone to use these technologies. Councilor Liberty said yes. Mr. Andreen said it would be interesting to take their ideas and put in some existing buildings and see what those would look like. He said it would be a good place to start.

Virginia Bruce said they had already set up a blog and they would be delighted to be involved in something like that. Councilor Liberty said that no Metro staff or any resources were available at this time. He said that they were, however, working to find out what they could do to facilitate getting a project like that started. Gerritt Rosenthal said Stafford and Workers Corner would also be interested in participating. They talked about potential cost of programs and what they could accomplish. They still needed to check on licenses and usage permissions. A blog would have to be moderated but not by a government entity. Gerritt Rosenthal asked if Metro was going to have a central focus for comments for the project or scenarios. He wondered if each group would end up doing the same thing. And he wondered if the project would be open to all who wanted to participate. Councilor Liberty said it was his desire that they would be off doing their own thing. Mr. Rosenthal thought it would be good

if the various groups or entities could share information. He suggested that Metro could help with that. Sue Gemmell said that Metro would not need to host something like that. There were processes/programs already instituted on the web available for free. Malek Hall wondered how these concepts could be incorporated into government planning? Councilor Liberty said he wasn't sure since it was completely unstructured, which was part of its charm. The politicians would be interested in seeing what people were saying and hearing from new people with new ideas.

Transportation:

Councilor Liberty said he had been very concerned about how transportation investments had been made for years. He said that was strictly his views on the matter and that he was not speaking for others on council. He said the Council had seen a report which set policies and projects, and that the total cost of all the projects was 10 billion. He anticipated existing funds to be about 4 billion without much more money coming. He was concerned about the deficit and disturbed by the project analysis. His concerns centered on how they used advisory committees and where they should be making policy and how they were staffed. He said he had noticed a tendency to use open houses as a substitute for public hearings. He said he thought it would be more useful for people to have conversation about those things, how they work, and what the proper form should be for conveying ideas and messages. Should they have hearings, listening posts, or open houses? Also, people don't agree on those answers. Norm Andreen talked about listening posts and how he hates them. He said that they simply frustrated citizens. He thought they needed the give and take from hearings. Councilor Liberty said his colleagues had very different attitudes as to what should happen at those events. He said that some like listening posts and some like hearings with give and take. He said his view was that Council discussion with disagreements vetted in public have been useful. He said he would rather engage with people. He did not think open houses created opportunities for discussion about proposals, although folks could talk face-to-face with staff and that was good.

Gerritt Rosenthal said that it might be possible for the committee or council to weigh in on what might be the most effective public effort to achieve their goals, and to spread information and policy points in order to get good public feedback. He thought it should be via an individual project basis. Of course there was always cost and staffing issues.

Mark Knudesen said they had made some good points about projects already heading in a certain direction from previous councils. He said they needed to show the public that they can make a difference by attending hearings and other outreach events.

Metro web site improvements

Sue Gemmell, Metro Web Site Supervisor, reported on some projected improvements to the website and asked for suggestions from the committee. There was discussion with some suggestions from the committee about making it easier and more intuitive to navigate the site.

Department orientation: Solid Waste and Recycling

Mike Hoglund, Solid Waste and Recycling department director, explained what his department was responsible for in the Metro scheme of things. He briefed the committee on several current projects, i.e., the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP), updated the committee about the St. Johns landfill closure and the how the region's solid waste gets hauled to Gilliam County for disposal. He talked about several Solid Waste department projects including "Fork it Over," construction demolition recycling and the Rebuilding Center.

In response to a question from a committee member about garbage seen on the side of the road near a couple of the transfer stations, Mr. Hoglund said he would look into the issue and report back to the

committee to see what was being done to control the problem. He presented information about the recycled paint facility and natural gardening and the Recycling Information Center (RIC) hotline and he described some educational outreach that his department generated. It was suggested that Mr. Hogle return to the January meeting with Jan O'Dell to talk about current and pending projects from the department.

Increasing diversity of citizen representation on Metro advisory committees

A memo from Pat Emmerson was distributed to the committee to review for discussion at a future meeting. Outreach to the religious community will also be a topic of discussion with Ms. Emmerson.

Chair's quarterly report to Council

Chair Warren will prepare a report to the Council and report back with details of how it went.

Roundtable

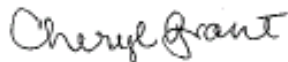
Erin Miller said she and Chair Warren were talking about a "starter list" to be used to present different issues to the Council each quarter and said she hoped to get the full committee to bring ideas of what should be in that report. She suggested discussing one PIP at each monthly meeting, starting with the RTP since they already have a copy of that one to study.

Segeni Mungai reported on a public meeting about the RTP put on by the Ecumenical Ministries and said he would email the details after this meeting in case others were interested in attending.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl grant
MCCI staff