

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday June 6, 2007
Room 270

Members present: Kate Warren (Chair), Norm Andreen, Virginia Bruce, Chory Ferguson, Malek Hall, JC Kizak, Mark Knudsen, Erin Miller (Vice Chair), Segeni Mungai, Gerritt Rosenthal, Christine Roth, Karen Wolfgang

Members excused: Skip White
Members absent: Hal Ballard, Scott Seibert
Also present: Evan Dupont, Dick Jones

Call to order, review of agenda, approval of May 2, 2007 meeting minutes, introductions

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The first two agenda items were switched as Councilor Burkholder's previous meeting went long. Segeni Mungai moved to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Review of advisory committee nomination process

Phillip Kennedy-Wong reviewed the process used to pick members for the citizen advisory committee for the Portland–Milwaukie Light Rail project. Twenty-one members were chosen from 51 applicants. See memo included with the permanent record of this meeting for additional details.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Burkholder offered comments and good wishes to Norm Andreen who is leaving the committee after 6 years as a member. He thanked Norm on behalf of the Council for holding their feet to the fire and appreciated the fact that Norm was tough on the Council. He added that it was the kind of thing the committee needs to be doing to assure that the Council is doing a proper job responding to the public. The good-bye cake was enjoyed by all.

Councilor Burkholder talked about the Natural Areas bond measure open houses and invited interested members to attend.

Open Spaces Audit: performance measures and communication

Fred King, Sr. Management Auditor, introduced Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn and fellow Sr. Management Auditor Kristin Lieser. They reviewed the Natural Areas audit they are currently compiling. The audit will focus on public understanding of whether the program is operating as it should be. The committee provided feedback to the Auditors and made suggestions regarding what kinds of information would be useful to the audit. The discussion handouts are included with the permanent record of this meeting.

Ms. Leiser talked about communication regarding the Natural Areas program and said she would send a short survey via e-mail, designed to get feedback and thoughts on some of the issues they wanted to know about. She asked for replies by June 15.

Diversity

Vice Chair Erin Miller led a discussion to finalize the diversity recommendations to the Council.

Motion:

Gerritt Rosenthal moved, with a second by Erin Miller, to strike the reference to "religion" and "religious community" from the diversity description

Vote:

The vote was 2 aye/8 nay/2 abstain, and the motion failed. Warren, Andreen, Bruce, Hall, Kizak, Knudsen, Roth and Wolfgang voted nay and Mungai and Ferguson abstained.

The draft guidelines were reviewed and final edits were approved. Virginia Bruce will do the final formatting of the document.

What happens when citizen involvement goes bad?

Mr. Andreen commented that Metro's Coffee Talks were among the best and most successful citizen involvement plans that Metro ever had. In 2001, approximately 100 small group discussions were hosted by civic and neighborhood groups and business associations as well as local governments and individual citizens got together in homes, libraries, coffee shops, community centers and other accessible places around the region to consider the benefits, costs and trade-offs of habitat protection, provision of parks and transportation systems and the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Another successful outreach happened when CPO representatives who were not satisfied with citizen involvement opportunities provided met with three Clackamas County Commissioners to talk about the fact that they didn't think the county was aware of what its citizens really wanted. The Commissioners agreed and formed the first of four Community Congresses where the goal was to find out what people wanted their community to look like. The county's Hamlet and Village ordinance, which was picked as one of the top 50 governmental innovations for 2006 by the Harvard School of Government, came from one of those congresses. That work is continuing.

Christine Roth will talk about not-so-good outreach at the next meeting.

Roundtable

Chair Warren announced leadership changes for the committee. Both she and the Vice Chair have to leave the committee due to time constraints and other issues. An election of officers will be held at the next meeting.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Grant
MCCI staff