

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Council Chamber

Members Present: Councilor David Bragdon (Chair), Councilor Rod Monroe (Vice Chair) and Councilor Rex Burkholder

Chair Bragdon called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He noted that this is a new committee that combines some of the Regional Facilities and Metro Operations Committee issues from 2001 and some new issues for the year ahead. He said that the scope of the committee would include the spectator and recreational facilities that Metro operates (Zoo, Expo Center, Oregon Convention Center and Portland Center for the Performing Arts) and internal organizational matters related to Metro's structure on the charter reform. During the second half of the year the committee will also be concerned with a number of issues that Metro will present to the state legislature.

In response to Chair Bragdon's invitation for opening comments, **Councilor Monroe** discussed the state-bonded money for transportation. He said that Representative Bruce Starr and ODOT Director Bruce Warner are attempting to get the February 8 special legislative session to raise the cap on the amount of bonds they could sell, which would generate another \$60 - \$100 million for transportation projects. **Chair Bragdon** said he would talk to Presiding Office Hosticka about how to bring this issue to the full Council.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

Motion: Chair Bragdon moved the minutes of the December 13, 2001, Regional Facilities and Metro Operations Committee meeting for approval.

Vote: The Committee unanimously approved the minutes without revision.

2. Resolution No. 02-3145, For the Purpose of Confirming Lydia Neill to the Metro 401(k) Employee Salary Savings Plan Advisory Committee

Nancy Meyer, Metro Benefits Manager, introduced **Lydia Neill** to the committee. Ms. Neill served as chair of the advisory committee last year and was nominated for an additional term ending March 5, 2003.

Motion: Councilor Burkholder moved Resolution No. 02-3145 for approval.

Vote: The committee unanimously approved Resolution No. 02-3145 without revision.

3. Resolution No. 02-3146, For the Purpose of Encouraging the Procurement of Wood Products from Sustainable Sources and Promoting the Sustainable Forest Product Industry

Councilor Burkholder introduced the resolution in response to requests from constituents for Metro to not use old growth wood products in Metro's operations and to ensure that Metro purchase wood products from sustainable sources. The resolution directed the Executive Officer to identify third party independent certification programs that meet the criteria of this resolution. It focused on sustainability rather than on eliminating products made from old growth forest.

Chair Bragdon asked that the staff address the question of fiscal impact on the Oregon Convention Center expansion project.

Joe Keating, Senior Forest Coordinator for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Oregon Wildlife Federation, as well as a member of the steering committee of a coalition of Northwest environmental groups, said that the groups he represents are pleased with Metro's efforts to bring this resolution forward, and they feel it was a reasonable first step. However, he said that these groups are concerned that the resolution does not mention the protection of old growth timber and tropical hard woods.

In response to a concern expressed by **Chair Bragdon** that environmental damage would simply be transferred to another part of the world rather than being eliminated, **Mr. Keating** said that there are many environmental groups that are working to improve logging on an international basis. However, he said it is also important to chip away at a local level.

Jeff Lockwood, Director of the Northwest Chapter of Rainforest Relief, said almost all wood used in the Oregon Convention Center expansion project will be from second growth, and that by adopting a resolution that precludes old growth or tropical hard woods unless independently certified, Metro will only exclude a small portion of Oregon's wood flow.

Mr. Keating added that the impact of an old growth ban on state forest and private land would be almost negligible because old growth trees have already been logged. The main impact would be on federal land.

Mr. Lockwood explained the biological importance of tropical forests. He said that one of the main problems with tropical hardwoods is illegal logging and that the only way to tell if tropical hardwoods coming in to the United States are legal is if they are independently certified. He said that many corporations and government agencies have made commitments to phase out the use of old growth and tropical hardwoods, and he would like to see Metro do the same.

Councilor Burkholder reiterated that the focus of the legislation is on sustainability, and Metro wants to support rural communities through sustainable development.

Ryan Temple spoke for Sustainable Northwest, which is seeking to promote environmentally sound economic development in the Pacific Northwest, and for the Healthy Forests/Healthy Communities Partnership, a network of 36 wood products manufacturers in the Pacific Northwest. He said that they are committed to using sustainably harvested wood when possible and to providing jobs and economic opportunities in rural communities. He commended Metro for recognizing the fact that there are market-based solutions to some of the concerns faced by ecosystems and Oregon's rural communities.

Councilor Burkholder mentioned that there are legal implications to giving authority to a third party to make decisions about Metro's product choices. He asked how Metro would use a certification program that was run by an outside agency. He said that the Executive Officer would need to look at this issue to determine the best way to make the process work within Metro's existing purchasing policy.

Chair Bragdon added his concern that Metro might inadvertently provide an advantage to foreign competitors who are not subject to the same standards that domestic companies are.

Councilor Burkholder expressed the hope that Metro would coordinate its efforts with its regional partners within the Metro region to maximize impact.

Matt Emlen, staff to the Sustainable Development Commission, City of Portland/Multnomah County, spoke about partnerships. He said that they already have some commitments in this area through a green building standard that the City of Portland adopted, which recognizes and encourages the use of local certified wood products and building materials. He said they also have been working with an organization called the Sustainable Products Purchasers' Coalition, which includes private, public and non-profit agencies and that they are working with the purchasing directors from Multnomah County and the City of Portland to look at sustainable procurement issues systematically.

Councilor Monroe pointed out that Metro needs to be aware of the importance of uniformity in language in similar resolutions from other jurisdictions to avoid competing resolutions.

The resolution will be carried over to the February 14, 2002 Governmental Affairs Committee meeting.

4. Resolution No. 02-3149, For the Purpose of Authorizing Contracts for Public Art in the Oregon Convention Center Expansion

Motion: Councilor Monroe moved Resolution No. 02-3149 for approval.

Vote: The committee unanimously approved Resolution No. 02-3149 without revision.

Chair Bragdon explained that there is a 1% provision for public art on public works projects such as the Oregon Convention Center. He said that Metro is committed to that concept in general, and specifically for this project, since art is an integral part of the building. He listed the three criteria that are being considered when selecting the art: the quality of the work; how well it reflects Oregon; and whether it promotes a sense of continuity with the original wing of the Convention Center.

Scott Moss, Metro Risk and Contracts Manager, explained that this resolution gives Metro authorization to negotiate and enter into contracts with artists, both those who have been selected by the art committee and those who have not. Committee members will continue to have the opportunity to review, accept and reject art work on an informal basis.

5. Committee Draft Work Plan

John Houser, Council Analyst, summarized and discussed the Governmental Affairs draft work plan, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, with the goal of committee approval in February prior to its presentation to the full Council. He said the committee will first determine any outstanding issues from last year and will allocate those various issues for further consideration during its meetings in February.

Councilor Monroe asked if it will be within the scope of the committee to review and consider the ballot measure brought by Oregonians in Action, which restricts land use planning, keeping in mind that agency involvement must be limited on campaign issues

Marvin Fjordbeck, Office of General Counsel, said that it would be prudent to follow this issue but that staff members should avoid campaigning on either side of a particular ballot measure. He said it would

be appropriate for the Office of General Counsel to review and report on the impact of this measure if it passes.

There was further discussion by committee members about additions and changes to the work plan, an updated version of which will be available at the February 14 committee meeting.

6. Councilor Communications

In response to a question by Chair Bragdon, **Mr. Fjordbeck** said that the legal deadline to refer measures to the May ballot is March 21, 2002. However, the practical deadline is February 14, which allows for items to go to the voters' pamphlet and for potential ballot title challenges.

There being no further business before the committee, **Chair Bragdon** adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Wilton
Council Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2002

Document Number	Date	Document Description	RES/ORD
012402.1	1/24/02	Draft 2002 Governmental Affairs Work Plan	

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