

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 14, 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 10:08 a.m..

1. Consideration of the Minutes

Motion:	Chair Monroe moved to adopt the minutes of the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting of February 14, 2002.
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Vote:	The Committee unanimously approved the minutes without revision.
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2. Review of Draft Transition Issues

Peggy Coats, Council Chief Operating Officer, presented a timeline summary for key transition activities, which is attached to and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting. This timeline assumes involvement of Governmental Affairs Committee, Council and key staff to process the Transition Advisory Task Force recommendations, recruit for the Chief Operating Officer (COO) position, to deal with restructuring and staffing for the combined office, to conduct a Code and policy review, to develop and implement a communication and outreach plan, to address the future budget, and to wrap-up and hand-off current activities to the new leadership. She explained each above-mentioned item. The Transition Advisory Task Force (TATF) will be delivering their report to Council on March 21, 2002. An in-depth discussion will be held at the Council Informal on March 26, 2002. The report will come before this Committee for review. The TATF recommendations are limited to identifying and recommending relationships between Council, the COO and the Metro Attorney. Timelines and other activities or issues on the timeline have not been addressed by the TATF, as they are out of the scope of their committee work. Among the issues needing to be addressed first are the main tasks of the COO, how Council relates to the COO, and how staff relates to the Council and the COO. The most critical item is the recruitment of the COO, which could take as long as 9-10 months. Ms. Coats reviewed the necessary steps. An interim appointment may be necessary, since the new Charter amendments do not go into effect until January 2003. If that was decided upon, then interview/task responsibilities would need to be put together for an interim COO. In the meantime, staffing for restructuring can be occurring simultaneously. Since Governmental Affairs is responsible for fielding transition issues in general, the Committee might want to review the recommendations and identify the process to be used.

Councilor Monroe stated that when campaigning for passage of this reorganization measure, the citizens were told it would be a cost-saving effort, and he said he still believed it would be, but by summer at least, the structure could be decided upon. After that, employees assignments could be made, and the displaced employees assisted either within the agency, or elsewhere. Ms. Coats said the agency currently has staff available to assist in this manner. Chair Bragdon commented that the structure had already been suggested by the TATF. Since recruiting is specialized, outside assistance would be appropriate. With the election of Metro councilors as yet undecided, recruitment may be difficult until the Council seats are more definitive. The TATF stressed the importance of continuity of leadership. An interim COO may have to be considered. Chair Bragdon said he saw the COO search beginning no sooner than the end of May. Ms. Coats suggested the needs of council staff restructuring not be put off. Councilor Burkholder said the COO job description should be based more on the needs of the agency than on the personal desire of the Council President. He indicated he was disappointed in the TATF did not address the staffing issue

very well, rather focused mainly on clerical support, which Councilor Burkholder felt was the lesser of the two. Ms. Coats replied that the TATF was not charged with staffing issues of the Council Office. Staffing remains a key issue with Council, and she said it could be researched, even in this period of election uncertainty. Councilor Monroe suggested appointing a three-member staff task force to review current executive office and council office staffing, and, compile two or three merger scenarios without individual names assigned. The actual assignments would wait to a more certain time. The current Council could determine the structure for future implementation. It was suggested that Lily Aquilar (H.R.), Pete Sandrock (E.O.) and Peggy Coats (Council Office) comprise that task force, with Chair Bragdon as the liaison. Further, Chair Bragdon added that a stabilization communication piece for the employees, for the interim period of time, be created to cover issues pending during transition, addressing the uncertainties and how the issues were being mitigated.

Ms. Coats added that a status report be obtained from the Executive Officer regarding key, pending issues to begin the transition/re-structuring with.

3. Review of 2001 Regional Facilities and Metro Operations Committee Dialog Issues

Councilor Burkholder said that some items on the discussion sheet were being addressed in the current budget process. Some items should be forwarded to the Executive Officer for resolution, while other items should be forwarded to Council committees for their work plans. This breakdown and recommendation will be provided at a future meeting.

4. Councilor Communications

Tony Vecchio, Zoo Director, will provide an update on zoo construction projects at the next meeting.

Councilor Burkholder requested adding the taxi issue to the committee agenda. It needed to be researched before the agency assumed the responsibility for taxi licensing. The City of Portland currently is responsible for taxi licensing, but their position is unknown at this time. Mr. Sandrock commented that with the current transition issues looming, the budget process in full swing, and measures on the upcoming ballot, should the taxi issue be set aside at this time. Councilor Burkholder suggested having MPAC address this issue before agency time and resources were committed. Mr. Sandrock further suggested the City of Beaverton taking the initiative to address this issue at MPAC. He asked Mr. Houser to forward to him correspondence received to date.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Mannhalter
Council Assistant

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

Document Number	Date	Document Description	RES/ORD
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031402.01		Transition Timeline for Key Activities	
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