

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GREATEST PLACE WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall Stage

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Carlotta Collette, Rod Park

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Objectives:

- Final Council review of “Regional Choices Engagement Architecture” in preparation for public release
- Initial Council review of Region 2040 assessment products
- Council input on Urban and Rural Reserves work program issues
- Share final “Regional Infrastructure Analysis” report and Council direction on engagement strategy/next steps

I. Engagement/Communications Strategy

- Final Council review of engagement architecture in preparation for public release (attachment)
- Initial Council review of Region 2040 visual and metric assessment products (hand-outs)
- Upcoming events: Design code toolkit (second installment of “Financial Incentives Toolkit”) – Miranda Bateschell (event brief attached)

Councilor Burkholder endorsed the final draft of the engagement architecture visual. Councilor Park asked about shooting for a decision in 2010. Councilor Harrington said it was something to strive for, but the Council would need to wait to see how things evolved. Councilor Liberty agreed the updated document was much clearer. Councilors discussed language related to “private sector investment.” President Bragdon discussed Metro’s historical defensive role and discussed the idea that not everyone in the region would consistently agree. Councilor Liberty discussed creating and developing new revenue. Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, took note of the discussion.

Ms. McArthur talked about creating a collective agreement throughout the region. She talked about needs of the Greatest Place process. They included developing clear decision points, conveying integrated sources of decisions, and maintaining a single source of local and regional commitments. President Bragdon talked about the opportunity to capitalize on similar, like-minded strategies between communities in the region. Councilor Burkholder talked about refining the current process and strategized how to encourage participation. Councilor Harrington discussed general community

perception of the Greatest Place process. She said Metro could take advantage of changing mindsets and utilize hopeful mindsets for future planning strategies. Councilor Liberty talked about actual execution and implementation of strategies. President Bragdon talked about discrepancies in accountability for urban growth boundary (UGB) expansion between communities in the region.

Ms. McArthur discussed different elements of growth strategies. Councilor Burkholder said one element should be to inspire purpose. He also said the region should recognize what should not be done. Councilor Liberty talked about using money better and more responsibly. He further talked about including conservation elements as components of the overall growth strategy. Councilor Collette talked about the idea of the “sustainable region.” She talked about elements of compact development. Councilor Harrington talked about the value of local communities as individual communities, but working together as unique communities with a greater common vision – with the sustainable region element as a basis. President Bragdon talked about highlighting unique identities of different communities as a component of the overall Greatest Place process. Councilor Park discussed the lack of gratitude by communities when Metro stepped in to help and assist. President Bragdon discussed the importance of relaying information through “normal” language.

Brian Harper and Leila Aman, Planning Department, discussed the centers and corridors process (see attachment). Councilor Harrington asked about creating an additional visual representing town centers in unincorporated areas in the region. Ms. Aman discussed density issues and implantation activities throughout the region. She discussed current plans, projects, and urban renewal projects throughout the region. She talked about approaches to accommodate future growth and different ranges and continuums to represent this. She further talked about different centers and various demographics of each. Councilor Harrington talked about communities viewing loss, versus gain. Councilor Liberty discussed communities and centers absorbing density and growth. He talked about limiting and controlling change, and balancing stability and change. Ms. Aman said they wanted to define change by how communities wanted to look, and then further help communities understand how best to achieve that. Councilor Harrington talked about different design elements that aided in developing a sense of community. Councilor Burkholder talked about past and current development patterns, including incentives and constraints. He talked about local aspirations and associated costs. Councilor Park talked about his inability to “sell” density in his district, but his great ability to “sell” activity. Councilor Collette reiterated the inclusion of the idea of sustainability. Councilor Harrington talked about costs associated with living far from urban centers and areas. Councilor Park asked if there were high-activity neighborhoods with low densities in the region.

Councilor Liberty talked about design of different centers and relative successes of different designs. Councilor Collette discussed reservations with an overall “regional design.” She stressed the idea of community-unique designs. Councilor Liberty said he was not addressing a universal design, but moreso a broader vision and various characteristics for the region, rather than forcing a regional design.

Ms. Aman discussed sizes of different regional centers, and went through components of the Hillsboro regional center. Miranda Bateschell, Planning, discussed “Financial Incentives Toolkit.” Councilor Harrington discussed citizen education for various form-based change (i.e. parking spaces) (see packet).

II. Urban and Rural Reserves – Councilor Harrington, John Williams

- Update on reserve open houses
- Council direction on reserve study areas (attachment)
- Council direction on reserves work program and Phase 3 analytical approach (attachment)
- Status of DLCDC technical assistance grant request (attachment)

John Williams, Planning Manager, talked about Urban and Rural Reserves open houses. He discussed that the intention of many open houses were to expose citizens to the process for the first time. He discussed feedback received at open houses. Councilor Liberty reaffirmed his earlier opinion that the study area was too big. He talked about the Phase 3 work program. Mr. Williams talked about implementing tools into the current 2040 Growth process. He said Phase 3 study areas would be ongoing, and determining quality and suitability of lands was also ongoing. Councilor Burkholder asked how related the size of the reserve area was to the cost of the area. Councilor Liberty talked about analysis information acting as a focusing tool in reducing costs and focusing investment. Councilor Harrington asked if the Council would be interested in seeing how various work products would be conveyed to the Reserves Steering Committee. Councilors said they would.

III. Regional Infrastructure Analysis – Malu Wilkinson

- Final review of Comparative Infrastructure Cost Case Studies (sent under separate cover) – Ted Reid, Todd Chase
- Infrastructure Advisory Committee presents final report (sent under separate cover)
- Council direction on engagement strategy/next steps (sent under separate cover)

Malu Wilkinson, Planning, discussed the role of infrastructure in successful communities and regions. She said a component of the study was to bring service providers together to discuss the role of infrastructure. Ted Reid, Planning, talked about returns on infrastructure investments. He described the methodology for different case studies. Councilor Burkholder asked about ensuring comparables. Councilor Liberty talked about projects versus market responses. He talked about infrastructure retrofits, and that there was a large chunk of development patterns missing in the region.

Ms. Wilkinson noted there were infrastructure problems in the region necessitating maintenance, and these problems were not a product of growth. She discussed the role of transportation in infrastructure. She talked about coordination leading to cost savings,

and demand management as a key for managing services and land supply. She talked about addressing infrastructure issues, and noted that local solutions may be the region's best option. Outputs of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee were discussed. They were excited to see interest and action on the subject. Councilor Park asked if all infrastructure costs added up were actually affordable, or whether "we" were living in a "fantasy land." Mr. Reid said various scenarios and choices could outline such a question. President Bragdon asked how to link the infrastructure topic to other projects, and use infrastructure knowledge to link solutions. He said this information would be very useful for education purposes. Councilor Liberty discussed infrastructure demand management and cost savings. Councilor Burkholder was interested in studying existing successful infrastructure models. He, and other Councilors, agreed they needed more time for conversation. Councilor Liberty talked about gaining regional consideration for infrastructure funding and planning. Ms. Wilkinson said removing barriers would be a key strategy from a legislative standpoint. Councilor Liberty talked about the importance of gaining press on the infrastructure issue.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JULY 16, 2008**

Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
7/16/08	Metro Council Work Session: Making the Greatest Place Agenda	071608cw-1
7/30/08	Promoting vibrant communities through Innovative Design and Development Codes	071608cw-2
7/16/08	Investing in Communities, Fall 2008	071608cw-3
7/16/08	LOCAL ASPIRATIONS, Council Work Session, July 16, 2008	071608cw-4
7/10/08	TO: Metro Council FROM: Malu Wilkinson, Principal Regional Planner RE: Regional Infrastructure Analysis materials for July 16, 2008 meeting DATE: July 10, 2008	071608cw-5