

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 22, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

Council Deputy President Liberty convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 1:02 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JULY 24, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council Deputy President Liberty reviewed the July 24, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Liberty asked about Measure 49 claims on the agenda.

2. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations, introduced his discussion on the legislative agenda. He discussed different issues from the Planning Department included in the legislative agenda, including infrastructure, affordable housing, and different transportation issues. Councilor Burkholder talked about the “No Child Left Inside” program in relation to conservation education efforts. Mr. Tucker talked about product stewardship in relation to the Solid Waste and Recycling Department. Councilor Park asked about pesticides in relation to product stewardship. Mr. Tucker said pesticides were not addressed specifically. Councilor Liberty brought up the issue of mattresses. Mr. Tucker talked about the diesel retrofit fee. President Bragdon discussed Big Look issues. Councilor Liberty talked about conservation easements, and car rental taxes in relation to legislative agenda specifics. He also discussed inclusion of components that spur urban investment.

Mr. Tucker talked about parkland in proximity to farmland areas. Michael Jordan, COO, discussed health care trusts. President Bragdon discussed Metro’s role in being an ally to the topic. Mr. Tucker said there had not been much traction on the issue. Councilor Harrington asked about the construction of smaller, multi-modal transportation projects. She discussed funding specifics and timeline parameters. Mr. Tucker discussed state land acquisition processes. Councilor Harrington talked about enabling projects that help create a safer and more livable region. Mr. Tucker discussed issues in the meeting packet (see packet). Councilor Liberty talked about drafts involved in audits. Mr. Jordan said staff would be supportive of audit legislation. He discussed procedure involved in the audit process. Councilor Harrington said the public would be better served by legislation enacting audit drafts as private records, as audit drafts are not entirely accurate in draft form.

Mr. Tucker talked about various state-level committees and topics under review and discussion. He discussed various ideas related to increasing funding for transit. Mr. Tucker talked about different support stances, including funding for trails and transportation (see packet). Councilor Park supported the direction of the legislative agenda. Councilor Harrington asked about the style of funding avenues that might be pursued. President Bragdon said he fully supported “Connect Oregon” and the trails component. President Bragdon discussed strategies for

reconditioning Metro's thinking. Councilor Liberty discussed new revenue for new capacity, and the difficulties involved. He noted that transportation system management operations seemed to get excluded from legislative discussions. Councilor Hosticka said "Connect Oregon" and the transportation funding package required Metro to be leaders on the topic. Councilor Collette talked about the importance of identifying funding sources. Councilor Liberty talked about addressing state earmarks and the subsequent politics involved. He talked about being prepared with a bargaining position, and keeping parallel conversations moving forward.

Mr. Tucker discussed boundary changes. Dick Benner, Metro Attorney, discussed bringing territory into the Metro jurisdictional boundary and various annexation procedures. Mr. Jordan asked about automatic inclusion into a district and subsequent charging of property taxes, and various legal issues involved. Mr. Benner said he knew of no direct constitutional issues with such inclusion. Councilor Park asked about voluntary annexation procedures, and discussed specific examples including pointing out different scenarios throughout the region. Mr. Benner talked about boundary changes and incorporation issues. Councilor Harrington said it was not clear what was at risk with boundary changes. President Bragdon said it was important the Council was included in legislative action. Councilor Hosticka noted that a further discussion of boundaries, annexations, and incorporations was needed.

Infrastructure Discussion resumed from July 16, 2008

President Bragdon talked about scenarios related to outer-region development and associated costs. Malu Wilkinson, Planning, framed the infrastructure discussion. Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, talked about analyzing comparative costs. Ted Reid, Planning, talked about transitions in infrastructure scenarios. Councilor Liberty said when discussing infrastructure costs, it was important to clearly outline who pays for what and respective returns on investment for each district or community. He said it was important to view what was generated, and to identify different equity issues that would arise. Ms. McArthur talked about need versus revenue streams and various related specifics. She said staff was working on representing the gap between need versus revenue streams. Councilor Harrington talked about a "Step Zero" which included gaining preliminary buy-in and identifying different funding strategies. She discussed observations that were related to the gap analysis. She said the infrastructure discussion needed to occur in both the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC). She said other mayors and city councilors needed to be prepared for action as well as Metro. She liked the topic of urban design, and was a strong supporter of infrastructure investment and regional collaboration. Councilor Harrington said she saw institutional resistance to a regional infrastructure discussion. She said there was work left to do to encourage a regional buy-in. She also said there were missed opportunities to expand in centers and corridors. Councilor Hosticka noted there was discussion in Wilsonville about regional need allocated to local communities who have paid for regional versus immediate local needs.

Councilor Park talked about inadequacies in the current infrastructure system. Councilor Liberty asked about associated infrastructure costs. Councilor Park talked about reserve infrastructure funding and the current system of depleting reserves. Ms. McArthur said doing business as usual would not work. Ms. Wilkinson talked about bringing together service providers and subsequent discussions and progress. President Bragdon said it was important to clarify that the type of infrastructure for the future would be different than the past. He said there needed to be focus on desired spatial outcomes. Councilor Burkholder commented on including parks in the infrastructure analysis. Councilor Collette discussed the importance of available infrastructure

analysis information. She said hard numbers and costs were important in development, and change the direction of regional conversations. Councilor Park noted it was also important to gain agreements between key players, as to avoid undercutting. Councilor Liberty said if there were a regional fund, regional conversations would be different. He said older infrastructure discussions maintained various assumptions that have changed. Ms. McArthur summarized saying readiness and a draft strategy seemed to be an overall Council recommendation. President Bragdon said synthesis was key to developing a legitimate strategy. Mr. Jordan talked about infrastructure discussions revolving around “supply.” He said it was important to be opportunistic. He talked about understanding service and associated costs as the discussion proceeds. Councilor Burkholder talked about developing a realistic vision. Councilor Collette said infrastructure data adheres to the sustainable region idea. Councilor Harrington requested a laid-out plan.

3. BRIEFING ON STATUS OF COOPER MOUNTAIN AND GRAHAM OAKS

Jim Desmond and Mary Ann Cassin, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, discussed cost specifics associated with Cooper Mountain and Graham Oaks. He said these parks would be very popular. He said these parks serve a different demographic, as the surrounding area was upscale homes. He talked about using bond money to develop parks, and these parks would not interfere with future land purchases. Councilor Burkholder asked about operating cost estimates. Ms. Cassin said it had definitely been considered. Councilor Harrington asked about realistic bids regarding porous pavement and other cost estimates. Councilor Burkholder asked about relation to excise tax. Councilor Collette asked about pricing without different amenities. Councilor Liberty asked Mr. Desmond if he would choose to fund trails at Cooper Mountain. He said he would, as it enhanced the user experience. Councilors voted against porous pavement, voted for trails, and for photovoltaic infrastructure. Councilor Burkholder asked if there was a stewardship group for Cooper Mountain. Mr. Desmond said not formally, but there were lots of volunteer hours.

4. BREAK

5. REVIEW 2008-09 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Jordan welcomed comments for budget process improvements. Margo Norton, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, introduced her discussion on receiving feedback from Councilors. She wanted to know if Councilors felt prepared, and their overall general opinion on the past budget process. Councilor Harrington thought the process for Councilor amendments did not receive much staff time. She said she would have preferred options and extended choices, and that staff seemed married to invested efforts. She said two weeks to review the budget was not much time to provide valid feedback. She noted the budget work sessions were not entirely helpful or focused. She said the staff process was too long and the extended period of time did not seem useful. She said she did not feel that a strategic direction was set for the 2008-09 budget. She did not think the process was bad, but she wanted to provide feedback.

President Bragdon said his comments were more focused on future directions for budgeting. He said the budget should be used to set policy and set priorities, and as a program evaluation tool. He said he did not feel they had reached that status. He said in the amendment process, he felt the budget was not used to make tough choices and evaluate priorities and programs. He said overall he felt the budget process was improving and becoming more collaborative.

Councilor Liberty said he felt the budget cycle displays were helpful and clearer. He said a smaller number of amendments were a good sign of representing improvement. He said the core of the budget was to nail down efficiencies in policy initiatives and other program priorities. He said it might be useful to have a forward-looking budget proposal.

Councilor Hosticka said the process had improved. He said he felt budget amendments were actually policy issues casted in budgetary terms. He said the budget worked as an implementing document. He said he felt the budget was also a legitimate fiscal management tool. He thought the process worked fairly well, and addressing issues as they arose were part of the process.

Councilor Collette said the least useful item of the budget process were Council and senior management one-on-one's. She said she felt the budget process was generally very good, but she would also like opportunities for familiarization sessions to better acquaint her with different existing budget issues.

Councilor Harrington said the budget should be a tool to address stated needs, goals, and objectives. Mr. Jordan said he understood that strategic planning should be a much larger part of developing the budget process. He said it should also not be the ultimate, end-all decision on agency fiscal decisions. Ms. Norton said she thought amendments should be integrated when dictating budget direction. She said the time to influence direction was not when the budget was actually proposed. She said Council project priorities should be put in front of the budget process, rather than afterwards. Councilor Collette talked about reengineering. President Bragdon talked about individual amendments as not a responsibility of the COO. He said projects without a majority backing should not have been included in the initial budget, and should be framed and introduced as amendments. Councilor Harrington said it was time to begin executing programmatic budgeting at the next level.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

President Bragdon asked for permission to attend the Zoo Foundation Board of Trustees dinner. Councilor Collette talked about speaking events related to the zoo bond measure. Councilor Harrington talked about Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus's new compost program.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JULY 22, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	7/24/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, July 24, 2008	072208cw-1
2	Memo	7/24/08	To: Metro Council, etc. From: Big Look Task Force, c/o John Evans & Mike Quilty Re: Comments on "Big Look: Choices for Oregon' Future" Date: July 24, 2008	072208cw-2
2	Table	7/9/08	Discussion Guide: potential next steps to raise public support and increase political leadership for infrastructure, 7/9/08 DRAFT	072208cw-3
3	Site Plan, Map	7/16/08	Graham Oaks Nature Park, Site Plan	072208cw-4