

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 29, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty (Deputy Council President)

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (excused), Rex Burkholder (excused)

Deputy Council President Liberty convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Jordan, COO, discussed his handout on the Metro sponsorship program (see attachment). He discussed timelines and processes. Councilor Harrington asked about receiving notifications electronically. Councilor Hosticka asked about tracking recommendations and receiving notifications. Mr. Jordan said tracking was a primary issue. Councilor Park asked for clarification on sponsorship funds, and about double sponsorship requests. Councilor Harrington asked who the point person in the Council office was. Mr. Jordan said Kathryn Sofich.

2. METRO COUNCIL COMMENTS ON BIG LOOK TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, and Steve Clark and Ken Bailey, Oregon Task Force on Land Use Planning, discussed founding principles of "The Big Look." A Powerpoint presentation was presented (see attachments and meeting packet). The presentation discussed the calendar of outreach events, stakeholder feedback opportunities, and other processes involved in the timeline. The overarching principles of "The Big Look" were discussed (see attachments). Councilor Harrington talked about feedback from the agricultural community in Washington County. She noted the ag-community expressed interest and would always appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the process and studies. Mr. Clark and Mr. Bailey discussed their responsibility to gain legitimate public feedback. Councilor Harrington said it was important for the human element to consistently have a role in the process.

Councilor Hosticka discussed his concern with the region's reserves process becoming tangled or dependent upon the statewide designation process. He asked about levels of protection for different lands, and the various levels of classification that exist. Technical specifics of land designation zones were discussed. Resource lands within the Metro region were identified and discussed. Councilor Hosticka said he hoped the state would "bless" Metro's reserves-defining process, so that Metro did not need to wait on the state to follow through with urban and rural reserves designation.

Councilor Park discussed market-based tools for designation. He noted he had not seen much material on performance-based approaches. He discussed the heavy hand that market factors play and should be identified when projecting for future planning. Local and state agency collaboration was discussed. Councilor Park said he suspected there would be inevitable tweaks in the end that changed the outcome of the designation process. He said the process should not be approached as an experiment, but as a legitimate process.

Councilor Liberty noted that Oregon was the only state that had identified land-use patterns by way of growth and land-use laws and management. He said many of the comments he heard were the same comments he heard twenty years ago. He said he felt global perceptions of land-use were wrong. He said the issue was not about allowing development on the “right” lands as a solution to expanded land-use and growth management. He said that local control land-use methods did not work because of political pressures. He said another misconception was that if there were homes on land, there would be no fiscal problems. He said he felt it was the opposite as infrastructure and energy costs had skyrocketed. Economic change over time was discussed and how to best connect such an ideal to land-use issues. Councilor Hosticka and Councilor Park talked about political values assigned to land and land designations. Councilor Park talked about infrastructure investments and subsequent affects on land value and designations related to such infrastructure investments.

Councilor Harrington commented the “safe harbor” concept was the least clear of the discussion. Councilor Hosticka discussed visuals in the Powerpoint that only represented single-family homes and large lots, when a different mindset of urban living should also be represented visually from a political standpoint. Councilor Harrington talked about urban reserves supporting a quality community. Councilor Hosticka discussed the idea that communities within the urban growth boundary (UGB) could continue to get better without growing. Mr. Cotugno said results were disproportional in urban areas compared to other areas in the state. Councilor Park discussed differences in growth capacity throughout the state. He discussed governance as a limiter of performance throughout the local Metro region.

Councilor Hosticka and Harrington asked about barriers surrounding school districts and land-use. Councilor Liberty discussed connections between school districts and poverty. Councilor Park discussed situations involved in local annexations and land-use conversions. Discussion ensued about identifying land needs and subsequently how to protect those same lands. Climate change best-practices were discussed. Councilor Collette discussed the inclusion of the League of Oregon Cities in the statewide climate change discussion. Councilor Harrington was concerned that residents of the rural areas of the state would identify climate change regulation as primarily directed towards urban areas. Councilor Collette was interested in how to include smaller, rural communities in the climate change dialogue. She said it would be interesting to evaluate how to utilize local products in a statewide sustainable fashion.

Councilor Liberty discussed participation rights and objective decision criteria. Councilor Park asked how to inform the general public about progress that had been made, and how to inform regarding goals and objectives that had guided the process to the present.

Councilor Harrington said it would be useful to support the four principles, and state such support in a letter. She said thoughts on conclusions should be addressed as well. She said the transportation planning role should also be addressed. Councilor Park talked about planning areas that were not to scale at times. Councilor Liberty said fiscal land-use issues should be addressed in land-use planning in relation to resources. He said it was an issue that transcended boundaries and costs, and investments should be shared between communities. He said planning area geographies needed reconfigured. He thought modeling and scenario planning by way of GIS technology should be utilized. He thought climate-change planning had regressed, and an integrated strategy needed developed and implemented. He said Oregon should look to other states for creative growth strategies. Councilor Harrington talked about citizens who discussed how reserves fit into larger Oregon statewide goals. Councilor Collette noted she forecasted that

“The Big Look” was very broad and general. She said complications would exist in hammering out details.

Councilor Liberty discussed the recommendation. Councilors discussed language used. Councilor Park requested information from Washington as a basis for comparison. Councilors discussed specific attention in recommendations to urban versus rural focuses. Councilors further discussed different focuses of the recommendations. Mr. Jordan said Mr. Cotugno would brief Councilors on processes involved in drafting a recommendation and processes for revision. Councilor Park and Councilor Collette discussed tying sustainability to the entire process as a guiding factor. Councilor Liberty said issues flagged were governance, rural lands, transportation planning, sustainability, and cost allocation.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Liberty adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JULY 29, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Statement	7/08	Metro sponsorship program, Descision-making practice, Flow Chart, July 2008	072908cw-1
2	Memo	7/25/08	From: Oregon MPO Consortium, Big Look Task Force Re: Comments on "Big Look: Choices for Oregon's Future" Date: July 25, 2008	072908cw-2
2	E-mail	7/26/08	To: Council From: Rex Burkholder, Metro Councilor, District 5 Re: Comments on Big Look Date: July 26, 2008	072908cw-3
2	E-mail	7/24/08	To: Council and stakeholders From: Joshua Naramore, Metro Planning Re: Big Look Comments Final Draft Date: July 24, 2008	072908cw-4
2	Powerpoint slides	7/29/08	The Big Look Powerpoint presentation, Stakeholder Group Briefings, June 2008	072908cw-5