

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 5, 2008  
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Council President David Bragdon (excused)

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

### 1. **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 7, 2008/ ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Deputy Council President Liberty reviewed the August 7, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Park asked about the Council Retreat held at Blue Lake Park in the Lake House on August 8, 2008.

### 2. **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

Councilor Burkholder introduced the Climate Change Action Plan agenda and history of the plan. He discussed work and key individuals involved. He asked for directional feedback. Michael Jordan, COO, discussed agency sustainability efforts, including hiring a Sustainability Coordinator for the agency. He discussed sustainability communications and creating a regional plan.

Peter Murchie, Environmental Protection Agency and The National Policy Consensus Center, discussed his role in creating a sustainability policy plan for Metro and the region. He said the Climate Change Action Plan was one of the first he had seen regionally and from a multi-jurisdictional perspective. He gave background information on different collaborative approaches for climate plans. He said Oregon Solutions looked at how to implement strategies that focused on sustainability and climate change. He talked about different committees he was involved in to advance and promote new and innovative local sustainability policy plans.

He presented the question about Metro's role in creating a region-wide climate change action plan, and further how to adequately collaborate and implement such a plan with other jurisdictions. He laid out steps for implementation, including bringing together a task force. He said a collaborative problem solving task force would be essential to sustainable policy development. He talked about holding a summit between different jurisdictions in the region to discuss solutions and policy for plan development.

Councilor Liberty asked where emission levels were at compared to 1990. Mr. Murchie said he did not have exact numbers, but the problem was that goals were going in the wrong direction. Councilor Liberty asked if the State of Oregon set carbon goals for 2010. Mr. Murchie said he thought the City of Portland set goals for 2010. Councilor Hosticka asked if there were a model for measuring the carbon footprint of a region. Mr. Murchie said it did not need invented, but could be an extension of available models from other jurisdictions. He said the model would be used in a different way from a regional footprint perspective. Mr. Murchie said sequestration and

adaptation should also be looked at in connection to climate change plans. Councilor Harrington said she looked forward to getting the plan going. She said what Metro did with the climate plan did not only effect jurisdictions of the region, but also all citizens of the region. She said it needed further discussion so that traction could be gained on moving the issue in a short period of time. She talked about different political opinions expressed on climate change in the region and her district (District 4). She asked if community sustainability objectives related to regional sustainability objectives. Mr. Murchie said sustainability objectives usually reflect each other across jurisdictions. Councilor Harrington discussed work to be accomplished to ensure success.

Councilor Collette talked about the differences between a climate change plan and sustainability plans. She said it was important to have someone who could frame and communicate issues effectively. She talked about climate change refugees. She said the current schedule for the plan was incredibly ambitious. Councilor Burkholder said resources were not allocated yet, but plans were being developed. Councilor Park talked about tangibilities involved. He said he was concerned with measurements and using percentages. Mr. Murchie said the overall goal was to convince regional jurisdictions to meet statewide reduction and emission goals. Councilor Park wanted to ensure the region was not scrutinized for doing the “right thing” earlier than other jurisdictions and regions. Mr. Murchie said it was important to think about creating value for reducing emissions, including market incentives.

Councilor Liberty expressed concerns related to a package of twenty or thirty jurisdictional plans that did not necessarily accomplish anything more together than if each plan were individual. Councilor Hosticka asked about publicity and media surrounding the issue. Councilor Harrington asked if one major wildfire would wipe out gains in other areas. Mr. Murchie said not over time. Councilor Harrington asked about shifting lawn service and different practices. She said she appreciated the action plan section in the packet (see meeting packet). Councilor Collette said it was important to stage the issue and help people understand the issue. Councilor Burkholder said he envisioned a giant matrix of who was doing what and where. He talked about smaller communities excited about sustainability goals, but did not have key resources. Councilor Burkholder talked about the importance of joint Council “ownership.” Councilor Liberty asked about the added value of putting resources into creating a collaborative plan. He said he saw value in putting resources into successful collaborative approaches, but did not project collaborative approaches as ultimately successful and therefore was skeptical of costly collaborative decision-making.

Mr. Murchie said he saw defining information with partners as a valuable tool. Mr. Jordan said resources were not distributed without a plan. He said gaining a consensus was also easier with a plan. Councilor Burkholder said he thought it should be turned into a Council project. Councilors brainstormed how best to create a taskforce. Councilor Liberty asked what it meant to have a “plan.” He asked if there were a plan, would people be required to follow it. Mr. Murchie said that would be a decision of the steering committee. Mr. Jordan said specifics should be included in the Council proposal.

### **3. BREAK**

### **4. CLARK COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mark Turpel, Planning Department, introduced the briefing on Clark County, Washington and Growth Management. He discussed processes involved in the growth management process. He distributed a Powerpoint handout (see attachments). Councilor Harrington asked about

similarities between definitions of redevelopment and infill in relation to the Metro region. Mr. Jordan talked about discrepancies in land-use definitions between Oregon and Washington. Councilor Liberty asked how to define “infill.” Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, said it was small (less than one acre) development.

Councilor Harrington asked about rural development. Councilor Burkholder asked about building permit issuance, and whether it was a forecast or an actual period in time. Councilor Liberty asked about retirees, income tax, and whether this affected the jobs per household ratio. Councilor Liberty asked if the Metro region had to do an independent forecast and how the region panned out. Mr. Turpel said forecasts have been very close. Councilor Harrington reiterated her strong support of joint collaborative decision-making. Councilor Park talked about differences in growth range forecasts. He said sensitivity on numbers were huge. Councilor Burkholder talked about hypothetical growth scenarios used in various discussions. Councilor Park asked about moving commuters and identifying associated costs.

**5. METRO COUNCIL COMMENTS ON BIG LOOK TASK FORCE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-UP**

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, produced draft number two of the Big Look Task Force Recommendations letter. Councilors discussed major revisions. Councilor Park discussed rural zoning. Councilor Liberty discussed language changes. Councilors discussed content and subsequent revisions. Mr. Cotugno discussed intended meaning of language in different paragraphs. Councilor Park talked about the “working landscape” and subsequent designations and actions. Regarding the “Governance” issue, Councilor Park said he saw it as a performance measurement issue. Councilor Harrington did not see the point in addressing the “Governance” issue. Councilor Hosticka explained directional standpoints regarding governance issues.

**6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Collette announced a party for the Citizen Advisory Committee on the Milwaukie Light Rail project. Councilor Park talked about issues related to the headquarters hotel and topics related to jurisdictional general funds. Councilors discussed action on the headquarters hotel. Councilor Harrington asked what “delay,” meant in relation to the hotel project.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Liberty adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
AUGUST 5, 2008**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1	Agenda	8/7/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, August 7, 2008	080508cw-1
2	Pamphlet	8/5/08	Oregon Consensus Program, Helping Oregonians Agree, August 5, 2008	080508cw-2
2	Pamphlet	8/5/08	Oregon Solutions, August 5, 2008	080508cw-3
2	Letter	8/4/08	To: Metro Council From: Jeff Cogen Re: Climate Change Action Plan Date: August 4, 2008	080508cw-4
5	E-mails	8/4/08 and 8/5/08	To: Council Office, Andy Cotugno From: Robert Liberty, Metro Councilor Re: Proposed Language on Rural Lands for Letter to Big Look Committee, and Revised Comment on Rural Lands Recommendation from Big Look Task Force Date: August 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	080508cw-5
5	Draft	8/5/08	To: Mike Thorne and Oregon's Task Force on Land Use Planning From: Metro Council Re: Recommendations to Big Look Task Force and the Task Force on Land Use Planning Date: August 5, 2008	080508cw-6
5	Statement	8/5/08	Metro Climate Change Work Plan, August 5, 2008	080508cw-7
4	Powerpoint Presentation	8/5/08	A Briefing on Clark County, Washington & Growth Management, Metro Council Work Session, August 5, 2008	080508cw-8