

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 28, 2002

Council Chamber

Members Present: Councilor David Bragdon (Chair) and Councilor Rex Burkholder

Members Absent: Councilor Rod Monroe

Chair Bragdon called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m..

1. Consideration of the Minutes

Vote:

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of March 14, 2002 without revision.
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2. Oregon Zoo Cascade Exhibit Briefing

Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director, presented an update on the Oregon Zoo Great Northwest Project and the Eagle Salmon Exhibit. He began with a brief history of the project and an overview of the various exhibits that are part of the project. He explained that the phase they are now beginning involves several acres of forest and canyon, which have been designated a conservation zone.

Councilor Burkholder said he wanted to ensure that these activities have minimal environmental impact on the land being developed. Mr. Vecchio said that the Zoo shares this concern. The City of Portland originally approved the plan for environmental considerations several years ago, but the Zoo anticipates stricter regulations in the future and is working closely with the City of Portland Planning Department and a landscape architect to minimize the project's impact on the land.

Mr. Vecchio then talked specifically about the Eagle/Salmon Exhibit. He said the Zoo is very enthusiastic about this exhibit because it will focus the public's attention on watersheds and will provide opportunities to educate the approximately one million visitors per year about healthy streams and the importance of buffer zones around streams, etc. The exhibit will use a closed system with recirculated water and hatchery salmon. It will be paid for with bond money left from the first two phases of the project and with gifts. To date the Zoo has raised over \$300,000 and is still actively fund raising. The total cost of this phase will be just under \$1 million.

Councilor Burkholder talked about a group called Keepers of the River, which teaches children in Europe about water through various education projects. Mr. Vecchio expressed an interest in contacting the group as an additional resource for the current phase of the project.

3. Transition Advisory Task Force Follow-Up

John Houser, Council Analyst, said he anticipated that the committee would have ordinances assigned to it within the next month dealing with the transition, some of which would be of a housekeeping nature and others more substantive.

Councilor Burkholder suggested that Council staff begin working on housekeeping issues prior to June, when the more substantive issues would be coming before the committee.

Dan Cooper, Metro's General Counsel, addressed the issue of contracting authority of the Chief Operating Officer. He said he anticipated that there would be discussion by the Council about how much contracting authority to assign the Chief Operating Officer and how much to retain for the Council, but added that this decision would not have to be made before January 6, 2003.

4. Review of 2001 Regional Facilities and Metro Operations Committee Dialogue Issues

Councilor Burkholder worked with committee staff to refine and prioritize the dialogue issues identified by the 2001 Regional Facilities and Operations Committee and identified issues for potential review by the Government Affairs Committee and other Council committees during 2002. He recommended that the issues identified for the Governmental Affairs Committee be added to its work plan. John Houser, Budget Analyst, reviewed the list, a copy of which is attached to this record.

Councilor Burkholder noted the open space use policy issue should be addressed relatively quickly. He noted that potential uses for the open spaces that Metro has acquired are beginning to be proposed and he cited the Condor Reserve Project as an example. He urged that use guidelines or policies should be adopted to provide direction to those wishing to use these lands.

5. Councilor Communications

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Wilton
Council Assistant

ATTACHMENT TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2002

Agenda Item No.	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Dialog Issues	Not dated	Potential Dialogue Issues for Committee and Council Review	032802ga.01