

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2002
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Carl Hosticka (Presiding Officer), Susan McLain, Rod Park, Bill Atherton, David Bragdon, Rod Monroe, Rex Burkholder

Councilors Absent:

Presiding Officer Hosticka convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:07 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. A TALE OF FOUR COUNTIES, PATTERNS OF GROWTH IN METROPOLITAN PORTLAND.

Alan Durning, Northwest Environmental Watch, explained what Northwest Environmental Watch was doing in the area of analyzing growth, how they had gone about completing their analysis and the results of their findings (a copy of the overheads are included in the record in addition to a more thorough review of Sprawl and Smart Growth in Metropolitan Portland). The analysis compared Portland, Oregon with Vancouver, Washington including impacts on the land, the change over the decade, and the resulting density issues. Components of the presentation included an executive summary, their methods and analysis, rapid population growth, compact communities, loss of rural land and open space as well as their conclusions. They concluded that the Urban Growth Boundary worked, that growth management softened the impact of rapid population increase in the metropolis, it restrained suburban sprawl, slowed the loss of rural land and open space, and provided better transportation alternatives by channeling development into compact neighborhoods that use land and urban infrastructure more efficiently.

Councilor Park asked about green and density and how that was being accomplished. He said there seemed to be a correlation that the increase in density allowed you to have more greenspaces. He asked Mr. Durning for more detail on this finding. Mr. Durning said they compared Clark County to the three Metro counties. They found about a quarter more impervious surface or pavement rooftops per resident in Clark County. They also lined up the two data sets, one showing population concentration and the other showing impervious surface and then summed up how much impervious surface there was in each of those density classes. They found three times as much impervious surface in the lowest density, more were in auto dependent neighborhoods than they found in the transit oriented areas. They found that, per person, there was much less impervious surface in the densest areas, which meant you were leaving more greenspace somewhere else.

Councilor Bragdon asked about design techniques managing storm water. Mr. Durning said there a budding field in developing way to reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces, low impact development or watershed friendly development. A lot of the pioneering work was going on here

in the Northwest with some promising initial results. In this study they were interested in findings a gross measure, a footprint, of our major metropolitan areas on the landscape.

Councilor Monroe said there had been significant political changes in Clark County in the last few years. The current county commission had taken a much stronger interest in land use planning. He asked if they had looked at the first half of the decade versus the last half of the decade and if there was improvement. Mr. Durning noted that the Growth Management Act in Washington wasn't enacted until 1992. The Growth Management Plan went into place in Clark County in 1994. Some of the growth had occurred before there was such planning and some of it was grandfathered in after the plans took effect. Unfortunately the US census data was only provided every 10 years. That was the only data set that could tell you where people were living. They would be able to check again in 2010. They chose impervious surface as an indicator that they could update annually by satellite images. They might be able to see substantial changes year after year but there were substantial questions and problems. So if you see new impervious surface but you don't know how many people were living in the area then you wouldn't know if it were a good thing because it was a development that avoided covering a much larger area. They were not able to make any comparisons.

Councilor Monroe said he was Metro's representative to the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council. He spent a lot of time in Clark County and had seen some significant political changes that had taken effect over the past few years. He was hopeful to see some positive effect because of those changes. He then asked about rural acres, which had been lost to development. He said, in the last decade, they had only expanded the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) by 1500 acres. Where did they get the lost rural acre number? Mr. Durning responded that a lot of that land would be inside the UGB. This was a measure of land where population density was below one per acre, one household per three acres that was relatively undeveloped and that when population density went above that threshold they counted it as urbanized or more heavily inhabited area.

Councilor Monroe summarized that most of that lost rural acres was land that was within the UGB a decade ago but was not yet developed. Mr. Durning said it likely was, they had not done an analysis where they overlaid the growth boundary because it wouldn't have been fair to Clark County, where the growth boundary wasn't enacted until 1994. They were simply looking at whether there was a growth boundary or not, how much new land got inhabited.

Councilor Burkholder thanked Mr. Durning and staff for their presentation. He felt that the information was critical for his decision making. He suggested that they present to MPAC and JPACT over the next several months. He felt that the information helped them determine if they were approaching their goals, outcomes were very important. The rest of the report talked about performance measures, how do they measure whether they were successful. He noted the values of the research. Mr. Durning said before the presentation to MPAC and JPACT he would see if he could find some of the answers to questions that had been raised. Councilor McLain suggested that they look at their term "smart growth" and explained further what they meant by that term.

Mr. Durning closed by saying that the thing that most surprised him in doing the analysis was to compare the rate of population increase in greater Portland with other cities around the world. The growth pains that the metropolitan region was experiencing and continued to debate and discuss the sources of, they believed was largely the growth itself, 25% increase over a decade. That rate of growth was a challenge any place. The grace with which the region had accommodated that growth was remarkable. He applauded the Council's efforts.

Councilor Atherton asked Mr. Durning about carrying capacity and the challenge of livability. He asked Mr. Durning if there was a natural wisdom in communities where they grow to a certain point and then they say, this is enough, or was growth a given until they lose too much. Was that balancing act possible?

Mr. Durning said it was an important question but he didn't have the answer. When the quality of life and prevailing wage rates as a sum equaled out, when the quality of life in Portland went low enough then people would stop moving here. One would hope there was a better way to achieve that slowing of the growth than that. They had done some research in 1997 where they looked at if there was some things that could be done to slow the rate of population increase that wouldn't be shooting themselves in the foot in other ways. The analysis focused on natural increase and migration. Natural increase, in the northwest, was partially driven by an exceptionally high rate of unplanned pregnancies and high teen birth rates, which they had found convincing evidence was overwhelmingly a product of child poverty and sexual abuse of children. These social areas needed to be dealt with anyway because they cared about the future of their children. If they could do a better job in that area, they believe the rate of population increase from natural increase would slow appreciably. On the migration side, there were some things that they suggested trying that might slow the rate of population increase but all of the direct tools of slowing the rate of population increase were largely blocked to them. There were some areas for fruitful pursuit. Councilor Atherton thought their book was very poignant.

Councilor Park asked about the relationship between density and congestion and which city approached population density of 6,000? Mr. Durning responded Los Angeles. Councilor Park stated that Portland approached a population density of 3100. Mr. Durning said Portland was in the 3000s by this definition. Los Angeles had high population density; New York had a much higher population density than L. A. Councilor Park followed up by asking about Los Angeles' population size and where was L. A. in annual per capita traffic delay group. Mr. Durning responded that in the scatter graphs of population LA was in the upper right corner of the chart. Councilor Park asked, even with a higher population and a higher density, if they were still at a lower level of congestion? Clark Williams Derry explained the chart. Councilor Park said they had been hearing lately that increased density was causing problems and the data showed the opposite. Mr. Derry said he could provide the actual data for Councilor Park's review. Councilor Park said it would be useful to look at the data on some of the key cities that the region was compared with such as San Francisco, Houston, Phoenix, and Atlanta. Mr. Derry responded that Los Angeles, Seattle, and Atlanta had the worse traffic delays yet Seattle had significantly lower density than Portland. Atlanta was one of the least dense large cities in the country. Councilor Park said that it would be nice to have graphed out those specific cities so they could look at them more closely, especially the relationship to lane miles.

Presiding Officer Hosticka said they appreciated seeing this information, it was good to have some data. Councilor Monroe said in the June JPACT meeting they would have a presentation on Green Streets, which was related to this presentation. He encouraged Council to attend.

4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Burton, Executive Officer, updated the Council on the Public Employee Retirement System. He noted the press releases about increases effective July 1, 2003. PERS expected the increase to be significant. He said the impact to Metro would be 1.5 million dollars. He said there was not short-term fixes. They would be watching to see what the legislature would be doing in the near future. Metro's finance staff would be working with other jurisdictions and come to Council with some recommendations.

5. MPAC COMMUNICATIONS

Dan Cooper, General Counsel, reported that MPAC discussed their agenda items but took no formal action.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Consideration of minutes of the May 2, 2002 Regular Council Meeting.

Motion	Councilor Bragdon moved to adopt the meeting minutes of the May 2, 2002, Regular Council meeting. Councilor Atherton asked that Mr. Morihara's first name is corrected; the correct spelling was Hiroshi.
Vote:	Councilors Bragdon, Atherton, Monroe, Park, Burkholder, McLain and Presiding Officer Hosticka voted aye. The vote was 7 aye, the motion passed as amended.

7. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

7.1 Ordinance No. 02-943, For the Purpose of Amending the FY 2001-02 Budget and Appropriations Schedule Transferring \$200,000 from Capital Outlay to Operating Expenses and \$554,077 from Contingency to Operating Expenses in the Zoo Operating Fund, and Adding 1.0 FTE for A Budget and Finance Position, and Declaring an Emergency.

Presiding Officer Hosticka assigned Ordinance No. 02-943 to Budget and Finance Committee.

8. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING - QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDING

8.1 Ordinance No. 02-944, For the Purpose of Amending the Urban Growth Boundary for Locational Adjustment Case 01-1; Christian Life Center Church.

Dan Cooper, Legal Counsel, briefed the Council on the procedures for the three step quasi-judicial proceeding and the history of Case 01-1.

Motion	Councilor McLain moved to adopt Ordinance No. 02-944.
Seconded:	Councilor Monroe seconded the motion

Councilor McLain said this was the third in a three-step process for a locational adjustment. This was the last locational adjustment under the old Code. She said the Code criteria had been improved. She said the hearings officer recommended that this case met the criteria in the old locational adjustment criteria. It bettered urban services within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Councilor Park said the reason this was brought before Council was because of the operation of a school. He thought it was appropriate in the conditions that the area could only be used for church, school or other church related purposes until the rest of the land that can be urbanized had been brought inside the Urban Growth Boundary. They didn't want to penalize the church/school on the other had they didn't want to end up rewarding them either. He felt it was the best they could do holding to the Code as they were trying to enforce not moving the boundary in certain

areas yet still taking care of a problem that had been presented to Council not of their own making. He could support this action.

Vote:	Councilors Bragdon, Atherton, Monroe, Park, Burkholder, McLain and Presiding Officer Hosticka voted aye. The vote was 6 aye/1 nay, the motion passed with Presiding Officer Hosticka voting no.
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9. RESOLUTIONS

9.1 **Resolution No. 02-3190**, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Executive Office to Execute an Amended and Full Restated Agreement with the Oregon Zoo Foundation.

Motion	Councilor Burkholder moved to adopt Resolution No. 02-3190.
Seconded:	Councilor Bragdon seconded the motion

Councilor Burkholder said this resolution was to amend the current Oregon Zoo Foundation agreement with Metro. He explained in detail the changes, the duties of both organizations, coordination, fees, donations and contributions (found in the staff report included in the meeting packet). He urged an aye vote. Councilor Bragdon thanked the members of the Oregon Zoo Foundation. This agreement was a good one and he was supportive of this. Presiding Officer Hosticka asked about moving from voting to non-voting members. Councilor Burkholder explained the reasons behind the change. Presiding Officer Hosticka asked about the distribution of funds. Councilor Burkholder responded to his concern.

Vote:	Councilors Bragdon, Atherton, Monroe, Park, Burkholder, McLain and Presiding Officer Hosticka voted aye. The vote was 7 aye, the motion passed.
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10. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor Bragdon asked about the Lake Oswego Metro Council meeting. Presiding Officer Hosticka said that it was not going to be May 23rd but would be rescheduled for June, the date was yet to be determined.

Councilor Park thanked the Council for being out in the eastern portion of the region last week. He thought East County was a good example of Metro's planning efforts.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Hosticka adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Prepared by

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 9, 2002

ITEM #	TOPIC	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOC. NUMBER
6.1	MINUTES	5/2/02	METRO COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2002 SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL	050902C-01
3.0	NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH	5/9/02	SPRAWL AND SMART GROWTH IN METROPOLITAN PORTLAND, COMPARING PORTLAND, OR AND VANCOUVER, WA DURING THE 1990S	050902C-02