

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE OFFICER INFORMAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 28, 2002
Council Annex

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

Councilors Absent:

Others Present: Mike Burton

Presiding Officer Hosticka convened the Council/Executive Officer Informal Meeting at 2:05 p.m.

1. UPCOMING LEGISLATION

Presiding Officer Hosticka announced that there was no Council meeting this week.

2. LONG TERM FUNDING ISSUES

Presiding Officer Hosticka passed out a memo on long term funding issues (a copy of which is found in the meeting record). This memo was in response to a request from Councilor Burkholder to review issues, which has been proposed by specific individuals and groups regarding funding for large-scale activities of Metro, which could potentially require a public vote. He asked the Council to express how important they felt these issues were and when Metro might want to bring them in front of the people for their decision and what would be appropriate sources of funding. He asked if there were additions to the list.

Councilor McLain asked Councilor Burkholder what had been added recently.

Councilor Burkholder said this list had been changed a bit with some of the items added under MERC. The cost of doing business, such as health care, was put under the replacement excise tax.

Presiding Officer Hosticka suggested that Councilor Burkholder review the list.

Councilor Burkholder reviewed the list and the specifics under each area: Transportation, Parks, MERC, Zoo Bond, School Funding and Replacement and Excise Tax. Councilors asked questions about the specifics of the list. Councilor Burkholder said there was a long list of needs important to the region and for operations of this government. He wanted to start the conversation so that they did this in a logical and reasonable way so they had a greater chance of success of getting some of the measure passed through. Councilor Bragdon said Affordable Housing was also an issue. Mr. Burton asked about BODS Building and clarification on ownership. Alexis Dow, Metro Auditor, added that Tony Wilcock had a vision about the suggested Arts facility. He felt that this type of facility was a magnet for drawing people. Mr. Burton said he felt that all of the issues were important and talked about why each was important. He felt our hallmark was openspaces.

Councilor Park talked about transportation issues. What they had learned was the Metro was an Regional Transportation Council (RTC). He asked how they would go about proposing something with the limited scope of authority. Mr. Burton said they currently have the authority to put transportation funding issues on the ballot. You could raise vehicle registration fees and you didn't have to go to the voters. The State was doing what they can but wasn't taking care of the need. The State was too big and too split to handle it. They could go to the ballot that worked. The intent of the Task Force was to figure out what was feasible and acceptable to people such as an increase in registration fees. He talked about toll fees for new

projects. He thought you had to go out and bring the public with you. Councilor Park said he wasn't sure how the Task Force was going to operate but could you go out for a potential vote, which named specific projects. Mr. Burton said he would encourage the Council to consider this strongly. He suggested using the RTP as their guide for specific projects.

Councilor McLain said they knew they couldn't do everything all at one time. Council had already said that Parks should go first. Where they still there? Should they be addressing the appropriate source of long term funding for this entire agency? The agency was a pay-for-service government. Mr. Burton talked about tax levies. There were other ways of getting operational money. He explained their authority under the charter. He said everything they had passed had been successful. He said there were ways to implement an operating tax. Sometimes looking at the opportunities for funding would answer the question of what you wanted to do.

Councilor Atherton talked about the issues of priorities. He felt the listings were appropriate with Transportation being at the top of the list.

Presiding Officer Hosticka suggested looking at the timing issues. For Parks' money, they had imposed upon themselves a deadline of 2004 for operational funding.

Councilor Monroe said for the Parks operation he felt they had two choices, a five-year serial levy, which would directly compete with the City of Portland levy. If the Portland parks levy passed this year, Metro could then put one on in 2004. He suggested other taxes such as soft drink taxes. He suggested a second bond as a priority in 2004 for additional acquisition. He suggested that in reference to transportation, they needed to let the Task Force do its work. In the mean time, the EIS is ongoing for South Corridor. Assuming that what comes out of it was to build lightrail to Gateway, then the question becomes how do you fund that and do they also put a measure on the ballot to fund a Milwaukie line. Presiding Officer Hosticka asked about timing. Councilor Monroe responded that the work on putting together a funding package without a ballot for South Corridor could be within the next year. This was fairly short term. A vote for a proposed Milwaukie line would probably be in 2004. With respect to MERC, the one that Metro had most control over and could do most readily was to complete Phase 3 of EXPO. If the revenue stream supported it after MAX was at EXPO in 2004, then, the next facility project would be to finish the job at EXPO. Metro would need to work with the legislature to create a dedicated fund to promote tourism to support the idea of a headquarter hotel. They had to raise the level of promotion of tourism. He then talked about PCPA. He didn't think Metro was in a position to subsidize PCPA, which was owned by the City of Portland. He reminded Council that they didn't own PCPA.

Councilor Park commented that the Visitor Development Fund was doing quite well even with the downturn in the economy. He said that the stadium was for the City of Portland to figure out. Councilor Monroe said when this was negotiated they had made sure that the Convention Center project would stand along and would be funded first. Then there was supposed to be money for the stadium and if there was anything left over, it would go to the VD fund. Councilor Burkholder asked when the OCC operation deficit would start showing up. Councilor Park said it was seven years from the start. Councilor Burkholder suggested the OCC operations deficit should be added to the list. Councilor Bragdon said it was hard to rank the list. Some were issues that Metro had responsibility for and had an ownership interest in. Some were issues that were regional in scope but we didn't have an ownership interest in. Some were users paid and some were more general responsibilities. He agreed with Councilor McLain in terms of our budget and our activities, Parks were the most urgent. We had ownership of 7700 acres that was our responsibility. He suggested that there might need to be some regional coordination for such issues as education and transportation. He was having difficulty ranking the list because they all have different historic sources of funding and they all have different ownership responsibilities.

Presiding Officer Hosticka agreed that it was hard to rank the list but as a practical matter, he thought that in terms of the election cycle, you got about one shot every two years. He asked if Metro wanted to do more than one thing? Councilor Park asked whether the one time shot every two years was because of voter fatigue or because of the constitutional limitation on property tax. Presiding Officer Hosticka responded 50/50, on any revenue raising measure. He didn't think it was only on property tax. Councilor Park asked if it was on any revenue raising measure or specifically on property tax? Presiding Officer Hosticka said he wasn't sure but would get clarification on that question.

Councilor Atherton said when you start looking at public support that would be necessary, the amount of dollars involved for existing operations; Parks was about \$1.2 to \$2 million. Transportation was two orders of magnitude difference. If you were to prioritize things, maintaining road and transit were critical. Councilor Burkholder reminded that these issues weren't exclusive. He was developing a matrix, which included the lead, how much, when, possible sources, economic development impact, other partners, public support, and Council support. These all boil down to what they should focused on. Presiding Officer Hosticka added that if the measure says, Metro shall levy...we would end up having ownership of it regardless of who put it on the ballot. Councilor Bragdon added to Councilor Atherton's comments, it was maintaining what you already had versus building or acquiring new things. His personal view was they needed to do a better of maintaining things Metro already had before acquiring more. Mr. Burton asked if they really had to do only one thing at a time. He suggested that several things might need to be on the ballot at the same time. Presiding Officer Hosticka said that was a political judgement they would have to make. Does the Council have the energy or wants to take on more than one issue? It was his feeling that if you concentrate your efforts you maximize the probability of success.

Councilor McLain said she thought it would be a good idea as a next step if the Finance Department would put together a list of opportunities of different types of funding mechanisms to take care of the list. Second, not often had they had people who wanted to use Metro personal funding ability for things that were not chartered? She felt that affordable housing, the arts, and education were not chartered. She suggested having a dialogue with these groups to find out if they were thinking of some short time fixes.

Presiding Officer Hosticka suggested Councilor Burkholder provide the matrix and then get some indication of when it would be possible to do anything based on the 50/50 and what voting dates were available to see if they could narrow the list. Mr. Burton said there was information available that they could pull together for the Council on funding sources. Councilor Park said he looked at which one of these was the logger jam to making more dollars to give people the ability to make their choices. He kept returning to the transportation issue and wondering how many economic opportunities we were going to be losing. Relief of the congestion was important. Councilor Atherton supported Councilor Burkholder's idea of the matrix. It should include maintenance versus new, the role of the State, regulatory reform. Presiding Officer Hosticka said he and Councilor Burkholder would work on the matrix and bring it back before the body. The practical issue before Council was in the Natural Resources Committee, which was in resolution form 'declaring an intent'. In the short term did they need to move forward on this? Councilor Monroe noted the special session on school finance. He felt school finance was the State's responsibility. Presiding Officer Hosticka said he was including categories, which included likely, maybe, or in your dreams. He gave some examples of successes in the past for funding. He indicated that they would bring this discussion back within the next few months.

4. PERIODIC REVIEW OUTREACH ISSUES

Council asked for clarification on the Periodic Review Outreach efforts. Councilor Park said up until the Council receives the Executive Officer's recommendation, Council involvement was to listen. After they received the recommendation, Council will then proceed with their hearings. Councilor McLain emphasized the need to be there to listen so they knew what the elected officials were saying. Councilor Park said there was a summer schedule of when staff was meeting with elected officials in the region. He

would provide a copy of the memo to Council. Mr. Burton clarified that his meeting during the summer with elected officials would help with his recommendation to Council.

Mike Hoglund and Mary Weber, Planning Department, said that Mr. Burton had asked that staff meet one-on-one with local government senior staff and some elected officials and talk generally about Mr. Burton's recommendations and get feedback from them about their concerns. Ms. Weber said these would be completed in another week or so. The other piece was during the month of June where Metro was scheduling meetings with local governments. Staff would be going out to the region to give a general briefing about the process, what would be happening, what to expect. It was all very general information to back up and lay the groundwork for Mr. Burton's recommendation. Presiding Officer Hosticka asked about local government meetings, who was involved. Ms. Weber indicated it would be city councils during their regularly scheduled council meetings. They would talk about what they had learned in the alternatives analysis. They would like to release a need number for housing. Councilor Park said they would be discussing the numbers at the next Community Planning Committee meeting. Ms. Weber said the more specific information they can give to the public the better. Ms. Weber said they could give range rather than a specific number if Council was more comfortable with this concept. They wanted to hear from the local jurisdictions about their concerns. They would be hearing that the productivity in these exception lands was not as great as they would like to do. They would talk about number of units, hierarchy of lands, and the areas that they thought were more urbanizable and less urbanizable. They wanted to find out what people were interested in. They would also review the schedule with August 1st being a specific starting date and public hearings in October. They would not be presenting a recommendation but sharing a direction. Mr. Burton encouraged that they stress that this was part of a State land use process. This was Metro carrying out a State land use decision.

Presiding Officer Hosticka asked if the schedule was available. It was good to share with the Councilors when they were having meetings in areas that they represented. Ms. Weber said the schedule would be available at the next CPC meeting. The briefings with local jurisdictions were a staff function but if one of the councilors would like to come out they were welcome. They saw these briefings as a way of backing up Mr. Burton's recommendations. At the same time, in June, they would be doing stakeholder meetings. There were four open houses set in the last week of June. As they moved through this process, they started hearing what people had to say. They hoped by the time they got to the end of June they would have even more specific information. They would send notices about the open houses to the 15,000 to 18,000 property owners that were in the study area. The format for the open houses would include displays and a computer to look up individual properties in the study area. They would have a presentation on 2040 to make sure people had history of the process. They would also talk about the State hierarchy of land and why they were at the open house as well as what the process was. They would group people into tables of 8 to 10 with a leader. The leader would go through the "frequently asked questions" to further orient people at the tables. Then people would have the choice to stay and asked questions or go to an independent staff person or to the computer. This was an informational open house to let people know what the process were and will be, get input and build that input into Mr. Burton's final recommendation to Council.

Councilor Burkholder asked about the location of the open houses, was it close to where the boundary was. Ms. Weber responded yes, they were close to the Urban Growth Boundary. Councilor Burkholder expressed concern that many of the people who don't live by the edges were also concerned about the UGB and were effected by the decisions. There were people who live in the middle of the urban area who would have a stake in the decision. He encouraged additional meetings to make sure that this same information was presented to people who didn't live on the edge of the UGB. Ms. Weber said they were also meeting with Portland and CPO groups. Councilor McLain commented that Council needed something in writing about what was happening so she knew when and where things were occurring. Ms. Weber said they would send this information to Council. Councilor Park said, after August 1, 2002 it was Council's decision. Prior to that deadline, Mr. Burton's staff was providing that information to him. He

understood Councilor McLain's concerns. He said what was planned for the next meeting was a presentation on Pleasant Valley and Damascus, alternatives analysis, centers discussion, final need numbers, I-5 trade corridor issues. Presiding Officer Hosticka said he thought it was helpful to know what was going on to participate. Ms. Weber reiterated that no decisions had been made. They were orienting people to the process, what was going on and different ways that people can get involved. They would be doing a twelve hours special call line during the month of June for additional input from the public for those who get the notice. Councilor McLain said the public felt it was the Council's responsibility to be involved in outreach and public information. The public wanted the Council to listen to them and hear them speak even at this stage. She had asked to be told anytime staff was out in her district and she had not gotten anything to date. Mr. Burton said Council would be given notice on all public meetings. Presiding Officer Hosticka said what they were most concerned about was when elected officials were talking to Metro, it would be good to have notice of those meetings. Mr. Burton said he would also like to know when elected officials were talking to Council too. He reminded Council about the TSCC public hearing on the budget.

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Burton said he would provide his Periodic Review schedule to Council. He then talked about the airline reservation contract with Azumono Travel Metro was participating in with the State of Oregon and other government agencies. A copy of the significant advantages was included in the record. This contract was effective July 1, 2002. The purchasing card would be blocked from airline travel.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Burkholder suggested that the Council utilize some of their expense account to help sponsor the 4th International Conference on Walking in the 21st Century. The local sponsor group wanted to do an event at the Oregon Zoo. The Zoo charges for its services. Therefore, he suggested utilizing some end of the year money to pay for the reception.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Hosticka adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Prepared by

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 28, 2002

ITEM #	TOPIC	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
2	LONG TERM FUNDING ISSUES	5/28/02	MEMO TO COUNCILORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER FROM PRESIDING OFFICER HOSTICKA CONCERNING LONG TERM FUNDING ISSUES	052802c-01
5	AIRLINE RESERVATIONS	5/23/02	MEMO FROM PEGGY COATS TO METRO COUNCIL CONCERNING AIRLINE RESERVATIONS	052802c-02
5	4 TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WALKING IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	5/28/02	LETTER FROM REX BURKHOLDER TO METRO COUNCILORS CONCERNING THE WALKING CONFERENCE AND A PROPOSAL TO SPONSOR THE RECEPTION AT THE OREGON ZOO	052802c-03