

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the September 11, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilors discussed carriers for ordinances and placement of agenda items. Councilor Park discussed solid waste issues. Councilor Harrington asked about a business recycling draft version. Councilor Harrington asked about resistance to business recycling requirements. Councilor Burkholder asked about Mayor Drake's presentation. Reed Wagner, Council Policy Manager, introduced Veronica Venezuela as the new Council Policy Coordinator in the Council office.

2. AIR RIGHTS OVER PARKING STRUCTURE

Councilor Liberty introduced the air rights issue. He outlined the issue's history in the agency. Megan Gibb, Regional Planning Manager, introduced purchasing options surrounding air rights. She said the issue would likely include partnerships. She talked about processes involved in development. She said the most intense option would be accepting proposals from developers and contractors. Councilor Harrington asked if assessments had been done or if it was just an idea. She asked if there was policy in place. President Bragdon said it was conceptual, and that engineering work would be involved to evaluate what the structure could support. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, talked about the finance plan for the parking structure. He said he remembered there were a lot of legal issues involved in such development. He said the potential for the structure still existed. Councilor Liberty asked about proposals, and said a process could be adopted. Councilor Harrington said she was nervous about sweeping the structure into the Transit Oriented Development program asset pool. Councilor Burkholder talked about redevelopment of Metro properties. He asked if Metro was adequately taking advantage of Metro property potential.

Mr. Cooper said Metro had received unsolicited offers for the property. He said government entities can always respond. President Bragdon talked about available options. Councilor Liberty talked about investments associated with options. Councilor Harrington asked what it would take managerially to follow through with a letter of interest. Mr. Jordan described the process and steps involved, including staff time and research. He said it was a low level of staff time initially. Ms. Gibb talked about partnering with and receiving grants from the Portland Development Commission (PDC). Councilor Park discussed reservations because of the current housing market. Ms. Gibb talked about market challenges involved in building a housing structure. Mr. Jordan talked about lack of capital to invest in such a project. Councilor Collette asked about the reality and steps involved in accepting even a single application. Mr. Cooper said real estate requires no competition; it is more of a policy issue. Councilor Harrington said

offering an opportunity when there was no follow-through could be problematic. Councilor Liberty said the letter does not commit to anything. Councilors agreed they would like to draft a letter of interest to accept interest.

3. ENHANCED WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION AT OUTDOOR SCHOOLS

Councilor Burkholder introduced the issue. Freda Sherburne, Solid Waste and Recycling, introduced the program and talked about processes involved in defining the program. She talked about components involved in drafting definitions. She said finding gaps in participation was an important concern. She also said reimbursement issues were important. She went over the scope definition worksheet (see meeting packet). She went over the outdoor attendance map (see attachment). She discussed specifics of the handout. Councilor Burkholder discussed the map handout as a “target” tool. Councilor Burkholder talked about enrolling processes at different schools, and for home school children. Councilor Collette asked about conducting concentrated outreach for target areas. Ms. Sherburne talked about relative outreach efforts for each district. She talked about increased participation efforts. Councilor Liberty asked how many student days could be calculated for \$1.4 million. Councilor Liberty asked about discrepancies in outdoor school days across the region. Ms. Sherburne explained how outdoor school could be spread across a week or a number of days. Councilor Burkholder talked about district commitments. President Bragdon asked about the location of outdoor school, and whether they take place on campus or not. Councilor Burkholder said the point of an “immersion” program was to immerse children in a natural environment.

Councilor Harrington asked about increasing waste reduction education within the program. Councilor Burkholder talked about assigning dollar amounts to outdoor school program hours. Councilor Collette asked about communities who have no outdoor school education and their ability to fund two or more days. Ms. Sherburne talked about funding specifics. Jim Desmond, Parks Director, talked about how to leverage additional outdoor school programs by offering to pay for one day if they would pay for additional days. Outdoor school curriculums were discussed and addressed. Councilor Harrington asked about different options for opportunities to further enhance the outdoor school program. She asked about the best tools and techniques for outdoor school education. Ms. Sherburne discussed the handout (see attachment “Schools outside UGB and Metro Boundaries”).

Councilor Park asked about district taxes. He asked about curriculums, and whether science credits counted toward the outdoor school program. Scott Robinson, Deputy COO, talked about attainment of education standards. Councilor Park asked if the outdoor school program was consistent with state educational standards. Ms. Sherburne offered solutions for reimbursement issues. She talked about communication plans. Councilor Collette asked about the capacity to take on additional students. Councilor Park talked about increasing individual educational success to see actual results in the region.

4. BREAK

5. FOLLOW UP ON WET WASTE ALLOCATION AND DESIGNATED FACILITY AGREEMENTS

Scott Robinson, Deputy COO, introduced Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) individuals present. He facilitated a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). Councilor Collette asked for clarification on the term “reopener clause.” Councilor Harrington asked for

additional information on comparative data of gross self-haul operations. She also requested information on self-haul events. Councilor Park asked about tonnage caps. Roy Brower, Solid Waste and Recycling, discussed facility caps. Councilor Park talked about connections to increased vehicle miles traveled (VMTs). Doug Anderson, Solid Waste and Recycling, explained travel distances and time involved in response to Councilor Park's questions. Councilor Liberty asked about service areas, and about environmental and other compliance.

Councilor Harrington asked about similarities between the Yamhill and Tualatin Rivers. She also asked about Riverbend compliance with Metro regional standards. President Bragdon asked how staff recommendations ensured everyone "paid to play." He said rates were not properly regulated and innovation was being stifled. He additionally said he was troubled the system was advantaging the same corporations involved in the "game" currently, and thought work could be done to reinvent the system and guarantee the best rates for taxpayers. Mr. Robinson explained processes for leveraging regulatory oversight.

Audrey O'Brien and Tim Spencer, DEQ, presented a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). Councilor Park asked about landfill comparisons. President Bragdon asked about similarities to Lakeside Landfill. Councilor Liberty asked about 1996 Yamhill River flooding around Riverbend Landfill. Mr. Spencer said he was not aware any floodwaters got into the landfill. Councilor Liberty asked what role flooding would play, and what the consequences would be. Mr. Spencer discussed scenarios if different sorts of flooding were to occur. Councilor Burkholder discussed his comfort with waste flow going to other areas outside of Metro's jurisdiction. Councilor Park asked if there was any hazardous waste going to Riverbend. Ms. O'Brien said not entirely.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilors discussed upcoming events, including the Bike to Work Challenge. They discussed various shared information and communications. Councilors discussed current issues relevant to the zoo bond measure and relationships with the zoo. Councilor Harrington talked about a deposit system she found in Maine. Councilor Collette updated on the Public Affairs Director hiring process.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	9/11/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, September 11, 2008	090908cw-1
2	Map	9/3/08	Outdoor School Attendance By School District in Metro Counties	090908cw-2
3	List	9/9/08	Schools outside UGB and Metro Boundaries, September 9, 2008	090908cw-3
4	Powerpoint Presentation	9/9/08	Powerpoint presentation, Regulatory Decisions: Transfer Station Franchises, Variances, Designated Facility Listings, September 9, 2008	090908cw-4
5	Powerpoint Presentation	9/9/08	Powerpoint presentation, DEQ's regulation of solid waste disposal facilities, September 9, 2008	090908cw-5
6	Table	9/9/08	Attachment A, Metro Council Work Session, Solid Waste Regulatory Actions before the Metro Council September to November 2008, September 9, 2008	090908cw-6