

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Kathryn Harrington, Carlotta Collette, Carl Hosticka, Deputy Council President Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused), David Bragdon (excused), Rod Park (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, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Council President Liberty reviewed the September 25, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Harrington asked about sponsoring legislation and whether that inferred support. Michael Jordan, COO, explained and stated that no Councilor was obligated to carry legislation they did not want to. Councilor Harrington discussed legislation language for the September 25th, 2008 Council meeting. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, and Councilors discussed legalities involved in developing and amending legislation. Mr. Cooper and Councilors discussed legal specifics of franchise contracting, and Metro's legal role in the process. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about franchisees.

Mr. Jordan discussed all-staff meetings for the Sustainable Metro Initiative and provided reference and timelines. Councilor Collette asked about the "Sustainability Center's" role under the Sustainable Metro Initiative. Councilor Harrington asked about point-people in various centers and departments under the reorganization.

2. CONNECTING GREEN TRAILS

Mike Wetter, Metro Advisor to the President, introduced the trails discussion. Dave Yaden, Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails Chair, introduced processes that were involved. He framed the task of the committee and different actions taken. He talked about milestones the committee had reached, and said discussions had not been totally linear. He discussed the significance of labeling and defining "trails," and talked about their unique role as an urban investment – including their many aspects and functions, as well as their community benefits (health, transportation, social capital, etc.).

Mr. Yaden said focusing on trails as transportation would be a key component in gaining community and financial support. He discussed trails as the future of transportation. He talked about differences and innovations in systems thinking, and the importance of connection and user experience utilization. He said the cost element of trails was coming together, and discussed regional equity.

Councilor Collette asked what "done" looked like, in regards to Connecting Green. Mr. Yaden said the charge was to look at trail packages, and decide how to finance the best package. Councilor Collette asked about development around trails. Mr. Wetter explained scenarios.

Councilor Harrington was concerned with the presentation of funding information and processes. She was confused about proposed funding specifics. She said instead of expanding investment possibilities, she felt the purpose (not funding avenues) was expanding which might take finances away from other transportation projects. She was interested to hear concrete results from the committee, and for a packaged product to come from the committee. Mr. Yaden said work was being done from the federal level on trails packages. He said there would need to be a second “pot of money” that focused on explaining the importance of trails. Councilor Harrington said philosophically she agreed with the trails idea, but that she wanted to understand concrete returns on trail investments. Mr. Wetter discussed the broad idea of trail packages and their relative functions, rather than spelling out ultra-specific finance options at that point.

Councilor Hosticka said comparing trails to other transportation options invited scrutiny and questions about return on investments, in comparison to other transportation avenues. Councilor Hosticka asked about lobbying involved. Mr. Wetter said there was a legislative agenda present, and both the committee and staff were in the middle of trying to develop legitimate policy and pinpoint successful ideas. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed land distribution involved in trail identification. Mr. Wetter said it was very preliminary in determining acquisitions and geographical placement. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about developmental focus. Mr. Wetter discussed segment acquisition and development. Deputy Council President Liberty said he was concerned in receiving additional funds statewide or federally, and the focus should be placed locally. Councilor Harrington asked if there would be a concrete recommendation coming from the Blue Ribbon Committee. Mr. Yaden said yes. Councilor Harrington asked about trails funding in relation to current hard economic times, and what outcome that might have. Mr. Yaden said it was a sequence, and that transportation funding was the primary avenue for projects such as trails.

3. URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONAL PLAN TITLE 4 COMPLIANCE

Sherry Oeser, Planning Manager, discussed compliance issues. Councilor Harrington asked about extension dates and compliance risks and issues. She asked about the use of “lack of staff” as an excuse or valid reason for an extension. Mr. Jordan asked about the application filtering and acknowledgement process. Ms. Oeser provided clarity. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about code changes and Title 4 compliance inconsistencies. He discussed different land-uses in compliance, including schools. Councilor Hosticka discussed reporting issues.

Ms. Oeser asked how to treat deadlines. Deputy Council President Liberty asked if there was a staff recommendation. Councilors agreed that April 2009 would be a reasonable deadline. Ms. Oeser talked about using written testimony to state reasons for extension requests. Ray Valone, Planning Department, said jurisdictions were trying to complete their work on time.

4. BREAK

5. 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Randy Tucker, Government Relations and Public Affairs, introduced legislative issues and related topics. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed funding priorities for the next legislative session. Mr. Tucker discussed regional legislative agendas. He discussed issues related to the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC). Councilor Harrington asked about

impact if proposed action occurred. Mr. Tucker talked about fees associated with TSCC processes.

He talked about creation of incentives for the clean-up of contaminated property. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about financial loopholes in such a system. Councilors were supportive of further analysis and work.

Mr. Tucker discussed the Drive Less/Save More program and subsequent funding issues. Pam Peck, Planning, talked about goals and program measurements of the Drive Less/Save More program. She talked about current laws that act as disincentives for private investments. Deputy Council President Liberty asked how many funding priorities could be funded out of gas tax money. Mr. Tucker and Ms. Peck said most of the funding was currently federal.

Mr. Tucker discussed funding the diesel retrofit fee. Councilor Hosticka talked about how to fund activities and retain deposits.

Mr. Tucker discussed the state Pesticide Use and Reporting System (PURS). Councilor Harrington asked about pesticide use reporting. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about Councilor Park's stance and about the specificity of reporting. Mr. Tucker said Metro would not be taking a lead on the issue. Mr. Tucker further talked about product stewardship and the Children's Safe Product Act.

Mr. Tucker lastly discussed the Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund. He discussed proposed legislative packages. Mr. Tucker talked about realtors and other entities supporting the package. He talked about agreements and preemptions. Councilor Hosticka talked about seeing movement in the Legislature pertaining to the Housing Choice Revolving Fund. Mr. Tucker asked about participation in the Housing Alliance. Deputy Council President Liberty said his concern was new components coming out of different funds. He was concerned with components getting "chopped." Mr. Jordan discussed levels of support.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

Councilor Harrington discussed urban and rural reserve maps. Tim O'Brien, Planning Department, discussed specific changes to the urban and rural reserves map. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about study areas. Councilor Harrington discussed background specifics.

Councilor Collette talked about the Clackamas County coordinating retreat. Councilor Harrington appreciated the collaborative process.

Deputy Council President Liberty reported to the Council that he had invited the former members of the now disbanded Housing Choice Task Force about progress to date on the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. Unfortunately, Councilor Burkholder's travel schedule precluded his participation.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	9/25/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, September 25, 2008	092308cw-1
5	Handout	9/23/08	Children's Safe Product Act of 2009, Oregon Environmental Council	092308cw-2
5	Handout	9/23/08	The Oregon Healthy Schools Initiative, Oregon Environmental Council	092308cw-3
5	Draft	9/23/08	DRAFT Metro Regional Travel Options 2009 Legislative Priorities, September 23, 2008	092308cw-4
5	Table	9/23/08	Housing Alliance, 2009 Housing Opportunity Agenda Detail of Sources and Uses for \$100 million in new funds, September 9, 2008	092308cw-5
6	Map	9/23/08	Urban and Rural Reserve Study Areas, September 23, 2008	092308cw-6
6	Packet	9/23/08	Sustainable Metro Initiative packet, September 23, 2008	092308cw-7
6	Graph	9/23/08	Metro Departmental Organizational Charts, Sustainable Metro Initiative, September 23, 2008	092308cw-8