

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GREATEST PLACE WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

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

Councilors Absent:

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge rangers gave a presentation on the history and amenities of the refuge. They discussed the property and various wildlife viewing. They also talked about restoration efforts sponsored by Metro.

Objectives of the Greatest Place Work Session meeting:

- Prepare to help lead discussions on scenarios during Joint MPAC/JPACT meetings
- Agree on outcome-based urban growth report processes
- Review reserves work program

Robin McArthur, Regional Planning Director, introduced the Greatest Place Work Session discussion and subsequent objectives. She debriefed the Council on the October 8th "Is Business as Usual Good Enough?" event. Councilor Collette said interaction earlier in the event would have been preferable. She said the event turned into a "talking-heads" scenario. Councilor Liberty talked about attendance. He said he agreed that interaction earlier in the event would have been preferable. Councilor Harrington talked about choice questions and providing information in advance of meetings so that more informed discussions could occur. Councilor Park said the "what's next?" component needed additional work.

Councilor Liberty noted he wanted a discussion on substance and content during the work session meeting rather than a wordsmithing session. Chris Deffebach, Planning Manager, discussed distribution of new households, centers and corridors, and various scenarios. She talked about the "business-as-usual" scenario. Councilor Liberty talked about implications of expanding development. Ms. Deffebach talked about infrastructure funds, and the significance of numbers. Ted Reid, Planning, went through the "Choices for making the greatest place" document (see attachments). He provided background information and processes involved. Andy Cotugno, Strategy Center, discussed the "satellite cities" scenario. He discussed strategically attracting growth in various centers and corridors. Councilor Hosticka asked about the existence of centers and corridors in various areas. Councilor Liberty talked about placement of growth and distribution in existing neighborhoods. Councilor Harrington asked about existing zoning. Mr. Reid talked about marginal improvements on the business-as-usual scenario. Councilor Liberty discussed the role of the Pearl District in percentages. Councilor Park asked about the definition of rural lands in the document. Councilor Collette talked about confusion in discussing "rural," where a more appropriate phrase could be "developed areas."

Councilor Liberty talked about ranges in scenarios. Councilor Burkholder said percentages of income could act as a more adequate and understood statistic. Councilor Collette asked if business-as-usual were cheaper. Mr. Reid said that was correct. She said explaining to taxpayers they would have to pay more to strategically attract growth was a tough sell. President Bragdon

talked about individual perceptions and misnomers involved in the idea of “business as usual.” Councilor Park talked about false expectations and return on investments. Councilor Liberty talked about lowest-cost scenarios, and base-cases. Councilor Burkholder said it was more important to frame and ask what the best lifestyle was for people and to focus on outcomes rather than strategic distributions. Councilor Liberty said it was dangerous to make outcomes and scenarios too generalized. He said interest was lost when information became too generic. Mr. Reid talked about finding a middle ground between outcomes that create winners and losers. Councilor Park asked what had been omitted when discussing externalized costs and benefits. Mr. Cotugno talked about costs, including infrastructure costs. Councilor Harrington said there could be benefit in providing a historic line. She asked what discussion they were trying to spur with regional jurisdictions.

Councilor Park asked about operational costs of different scenarios. Councilor Liberty talked about reactions in connection to assessing change. Councilor Liberty said the future was more of what plans were expected. Councilor Harrington said to mark documents “Draft” and send them out for feedback.

Kim Ellis, Regional Transportation Plan Manager, presented a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). She discussed transportation systems analysis and scenarios, and assumption overviews. Mr. Cotugno explained how different taxes worked and ramifications of buy-in power. Councilor Liberty asked if any assumptions were made about money. Ms. Ellis said no. Michael Jordan, COO, asked if any scenarios had been exaggerated beyond the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Ms. Ellis talked about land-uses not supportive of public transit. Councilor Liberty asked about differences between base scenarios. Ms. Ellis said they would work in the coming months to determine what specifically increased ridership. Councilor Liberty talked about different outcomes using land-use as a leveraging tool. Councilor Park talked about political capital and widening roads. Councilor Burkholder discussed bicycle and pedestrian modeling. Councilor Park discussed peak transportation movement including school travel throughout the region. Councilor Liberty talked about access to transit. Councilor Hosticka asked about showing realistic versus exaggerated assumptions, and subsequent responses. He talked about differences in analysis. Councilor Liberty talked about neighborhoods transitioning from low to very high values in a very short amount of time. Mr. Cotugno said discussions should be aimed at defining future direction. Councilor Liberty said change was inevitable. Councilor Hosticka said he would like to see cost-effectiveness results of different scenarios.

Malu Wilkinson, Planning, and Dick Benner, Senior Metro Attorney, discussed outcomes-based urban growth report processes. She provided an agenda for discussion. Ms. Wilkinson went through the document “Outcomes-based process for the Urban Growth Report” (see attachment). She talked about policy actions if gaps in capacity were to exist. Councilor Hosticka said he would prefer a 2010 timeline. He said a schedule could be laid out giving the choice of extending the timeline into 2011. Councilor Harrington said events needed to move beyond only accepting comments or general discussion. The process needed to mature into adopting legislation. President Bragdon said discussions would start to substantiate. Councilor Hosticka said what was presented was change. He said change would not flat-line, and he needed more information about history so the future could be more easily understood. He discussed strategies for making policy decisions in the future. Councilor Liberty said it might be easier to have a land-consumption range. Councilor Harrington asked what sort of staging they wanted to provide to the Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) in 2009. Mr. Jordan discussed strategic engagement with the new chair of MPAC. Councilor Hosticka talked about the numbers not driving decisions anywhere.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Prepared by,



Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
OCTOBER 15, 2008**

Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
10/9/08	2000-2022 Urban Growth Report: A Residential Land Need Analysis, Elements of Analysis, October 9, 2008	101508cw-1
10/14/08	DRAFT 10/14/08, Proposed Schedule, Outcomes-based process for the Urban Growth Report, October 14, 2008	101508cw-2
10/15/08	RTP "Cause and Effect" Scenarios Preliminary Results, Linking Transportation to Land Use, the Economy and the Environment, October 15, 2008	101508cw-3
10/15/08	Land use and public investment scenarios: Choices for making the greatest place, October 15, 2008	101508cw-4