

## **MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING**

Tuesday, November 18, 2008  
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Robert Liberty (Deputy Council President)

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (excused), Kathryn Harrington (excused)

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

### **1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Bragdon reviewed the November 20, 2008 Metro Council agenda. Councilor Park requested the issue of capacity be included in Riverbend discussions on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. He wanted waste flow looked at in determining Metro's level of responsibility in the future. Councilor Burkholder asked if polling data would be available for the November 19, 2008 Greatest Place Work Session.

Patty Unfred, Communications Manager, introduced the "Salmon and the Sandy River Through Time" visual to the Council.

Scott Robinson, Deputy COO, distributed hand-outs (see attachments) and briefly discussed the Sustainable Metro Initiative (SMI) budget amendment and subsequent ordinance that would go before the Council on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He gave an overview of what specifically the budget amendment would accomplish (see attachments). Councilor Collette asked about FTE for project management. Mr. Robinson discussed the SMI work plan, including employee-manager relationships. Councilor Burkholder asked if management issues mentioned by various audit reports were addressed. Michael Jordan, COO, said the SMI addressed reported management issues. Councilor Burkholder discussed managing as a skill rather than a last priority on the "task list." Deputy Council President Liberty said he felt uneasy about spending money on the SMI when so many big decisions were on the way. Mr. Robinson said it was an investment in Metro's people and future and not a tradeoff.

### **2. BOND MARKET DISCUSSION**

Carol Samuels, Seattle Northwest, introduced the bond market agenda item. She went through a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). Councilor Burkholder asked about insurance's role in the bond market. Ms. Samuels talked about rate failures and gave examples. Councilor Hosticka asked if there were any legal parameters on a competitive process. Ms. Samuels said no, it was dependent on a jurisdiction's independent decision. Councilor Hosticka asked about interest earnings. Mr. Jordan said interest money might be used for engineering and preliminary purposes. Councilor Hosticka asked if taxes were collected regardless of bond issuance or not. Mr. Jordan said no, there would be a levy-approval process. Councilor Burkholder asked how jurisdictions and governments in the region were performing fiscally. Ms. Samuels said there would be some cutbacks and "belt-tightening" but not necessarily defaults.

### **3. TITLE 13 COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING UPDATE**

Lori Hennings, Tim O'Brien and Brian Harper introduced the Title 13 and Monitoring Update agenda item. They presented a Powerpoint (see attachments). Deputy Council President Liberty asked about targets and monitoring goals. Councilor Collette asked about overall tree cover measurement and whether there were historical measurements to compare to. Deputy Council President Liberty asked for an explanation regarding how they defined "trees." Councilor Hosticka asked about areas outside of the urban growth boundary (UGB). Councilor Burkholder thought the information would not only be important to share with local jurisdictions, but also with the general public as evidence of environmental success and monitoring efforts. Ms. Hennings said there was not much comparative data to provide to the public in the past, therefore comparative data to years past would be made available in outreach fashion.

Mr. Harper introduced Title 13 compliance issues. He talked about jurisdictional readiness, and discussed the discrepancies in final compliance submission dates. Deputy Council President Liberty asked about Portland's timeline and why they had no target for submission date. Mr. Harper said because of the scope of Portland's compliance, setting a single date was not necessarily relevant for compliance submission. Councilor Burkholder thought compliance issues should go before the Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC). Councilor Collette said their schedule was full. Councilor Hosticka said when new elected officials were brought on, it would be a good opportunity to discuss compliance issues. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed the occurring pattern of granting extensions and wanted to ensure information was not being lost. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed ideas on peer reporting, and ensuring timely compliance reporting. He said it would be important to go before MPAC first, and then back before the Council.

### **4. CONNECTING GREEN: TRAILS**

Councilor Burkholder introduced the Connecting Green: Trails agenda item. He discussed Connecting Green as a community activity and asked whether Metro should serve a leadership role to launch the project. Mike Wetter, Senior Advisor to the President, introduced Connecting Green issues. He discussed initiative status (see attachments) and timelines. He said trails were the primary issue of focus before moving to next steps. Councilor Hosticka noted there would not be a single policy outcome for the trails component. He said there were a variety and a "menu" of choices and options available, and that Metro should continue to play a leading role in Connecting Green. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed how the concept had changed over time. Councilor Burkholder said often in discussions, trails had been looked at as fluff, but when discussions furthered, the multi-purpose role of trails were more understood.

Mr. Wetter talked about alignments of opportunity around the transportation approach. Councilor Burkholder talked about non-functioning planning processes involved in looking at trails and transportation at the same time, and the risks involved investing in trails that might not fully function as a transportation route, greenway, *and* community-centered trail. He talked about including more and diverse stakeholders to include a larger population involved in the project. Councilor Hosticka said he wanted to see all strategies move together, and that integration was very important. He said it was not important whether it was transportation or parks, but moreso each piece was managed by someone in a forward-moving fashion. He talked about something "feeding" forward moving momentum as a success factor for the project. Mr. Wetter talked about strategy components, including forming a caucus of elected leaders. He said Representative Earl Blumenauer signed on. Mr. Wetter said it was important to integrate trails

into transportation analysis, and to set transportation modeling examples for the region and beyond. He talked about setting an example and increasing visibility in the region, especially by using trail corridors to gain interest. He talked about using road-building standards to build trails, and subsequent problems with such strategy – but he said using a strategy as the region had with light rail, larger sections could be completed. He talked about addressing “safe-crossing” concerns.

Mr. Wetter said the important thing to keep in mind through all discussions and strategy development was the idea of “role” and specifically where Metro fit into the future. Councilor Hosticka was favorable of creative funding methods, including outside stakeholder and staff support – but said he agreed a person was needed to continue the project. Councilor Collette said Metro had acted as a convener and should continue to act in such a way. Councilor Burkholder was favorable of moving forward. Deputy Council President Liberty was favorable of an integrated approach to collaborative efforts with other jurisdictions, and moving the project forward with outside support and Metro acting as convener. Deputy Council President Liberty discussed the possibility of taking the project on the road, furthering the message, and bringing an outside national speaker in on the subject. Mr. Wetter said a dollar amount return-on-investment was in the works and would be ready to present shortly.

## **5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilors discussed meetings they had attended.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Liberty adjourned the meeting at 4:56 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  
 NOVEMBER 18, 2008**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1	Agenda	11/20/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, November 20, 2008	111808cw-1
1	Agenda	11/19/08	Agenda: Making the Greatest Place Work Session, November 19, 2008	111808cw-2
1	Handout	11/18/08	Sustainable Metro Initiative, November 18, 2008	111808cw-3
2	Powerpoint	11/18/08	The State of the Bond Market: Presentation to the Metro Council, Powerpoint, November 18, 2008	111808cw-4
3	Powerpoint	11/18/08	State of the Watersheds 2008, <i>How are we doing?</i> November 18, 2008	111808cw-5
5	Visual	11/18/08	Connecting Green: Initiative Status, November 18, 2008	111808cw-6
5	Visual	11/18/08	Connecting Green Trails, Estimated Actual and Projected Costs, November 18, 2008	111808cw-7
3	E-mail	11/20/08	FW: Today's Work Session on Title 13 Nature in Neighborhoods Compliance and Performance Monitoring, November 18, 2008	111808cw-8