

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent:

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

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JANURARY 29, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the January 29, 2009 Metro Council agenda. Chris Deffebach, Planning and Development, introduced final planning publications (see attachments), including the “State of the Centers Report.” Leila Aman, Planning and Development, guided Councilors through the “State of the Centers Report” and discussed report specifics as well as application throughout communities. She said the report was an assessment of regional center success and acted as a baseline. Councilor Park asked about Gresham performance and median age. Councilor Harrington talked about action and successful implementation as a product of Metro tools throughout the region. Councilor Liberty said material was beautifully produced, but wondered why town center acres were not listed. He said a quick reference for success indicators would be helpful to include. Ms. Deffebach said there were interesting results – some stereotyped “sleeping” centers were actually very lively, and many centers that might not be perceived as “mixed-use” were actually quite successful, although not necessarily visually representative of such use. Councilor Liberty talked about residential units within regional centers. He asked about vacant lands in various centers, and whether there were any regional inventories.

2. FY 2009-2010 BUDGET UPDATE

Michael Jordan, COO, introduced the 2009-2010 budget discussion. He framed parameters for the budget discussion, including issues to focus on such as stimulus packages and waves of funding. Councilor Hosticka asked about the meaning of “development focus” and “New Nature In Neighborhoods.” He talked about strategically utilizing long-term fiscal health. He further discussed organizational issues including internal priorities and situations. He went through distributed materials (see budget attachments) and talked about adjustments. He discussed regional role perceptions of the agency. Councilor Harrington asked about the term “higher level of regional engagement.” She asked what “higher level” was relative to, and felt there was no common vernacular for current benchmarks. Mr. Jordan said the current track included more engagement than past years, which acted as an informal definition of “higher level.” Councilor Hosticka talked about engagement during stressful times and engagement spending. He was interested in where and how various jurisdictions were stressed, and how that affected engagement with Metro, as Metro felt a level of stress as well. Councilor Burkholder said the time for utilizing clear focus and making decisions had arrived, as the issues had been on the table for a legitimate amount of time. Councilor Harrington talked about jurisdictions supporting outcome-based approaches in collaboration with Metro. Councilor Park was thinking in terms of potential opportunities. Councilor Harrington talked about characterizing levels of engagement, and setting benchmarks for the future. She said a spectrum of different engagement strategies was concise and helpful. She was hesitant of the idea that Metro should make up the difference for

various regional losses. President Bragdon said there were different forms of engagement with different price tags. He said engagement should be represented qualitatively as well as quantitatively. He also discussed internal and external discipline in engagement. Councilor Collette discussed participatory mindsets that revolved around return on investments. She said it was important to convince jurisdictions there was resolution to regional discussions. She said engagement could be self-regulation to some degree. Councilor Harrington talked about great ideas that lacked commitment – and it was important for Metro to be disciplined in prioritizing funding for great ideas and events. Councilor Liberty discussed the idea of “Metro partners having enough resources to be partners.” He said it was not known whether the economy would be better in following years. Councilor Harrington said there could be difficult times for years, which would require a concerted effort to forecast and prioritize. Councilor Hosticka talked about fund allocation issues at the state and local levels. Councilor Burkholder said the most important component was focusing on how to get things done and wrap-up. Councilor Park said if there was uneven participation throughout the region, an uneven decision could result.

Councilor Hosticka discussed discretionary spending for short-term solutions. Councilor Burkholder talked about holding off on various spending practices. Councilor Park discussed trickle-down effects of economic decisions, including operational and agency decisions. Mr. Jordan discussed specifics of contingency and reserve budgeting in relation to current situations, including maintenance thereof. Councilor Harrington discussed preferred Council conversations surrounding the budget process. Mr. Jordan discussed Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) funds, and talked about opportunities for innovative choices regarding budgeting logistics.

President Bragdon discussed his perception of “ramping up,” and the importance of productivity and internal discipline. Councilor Collette discussed the importance of meeting goals without hiring additional staff. Councilor Liberty stressed the importance of continuing financial support for the urban and rural reserves process. Mr. Jordan discussed specifics and history of the contingency fund. He discussed increases in tip fees from a base-budget perspective. Councilors Liberty and Hosticka discussed hedge fund possibilities. President Bragdon said the biggest factors were out of Metro’s control. Councilor Park talked about drivers involved in setting rates for the future. Councilor Hosticka talked about reducing uncertainties in future energy costs. He talked about refinement of tonnage numbers. Councilor Liberty asked how bond payment was reflected in the budget. Margo Norton, Finance Director, said it was reflected in the base budget.

Mr. Jordan said proposed budget questions required more succinct framing. He said the current year’s programmatic budget required direction on connecting to the following year’s budgets.

3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka discussed the 2009 Legislative Session. He discussed bills exclusive to Metro. Councilor Burkholder talked about eco-system markets and services. Councilor Harrington talked about values of mitigation solutions in various jurisdictions. Councilor Collette reported on Oregon Zoo Foundation (OZF) retreat events and discussions. She said the Foundation requested time with the Metro Council to guarantee the two entities were working together. Councilor Liberty discussed Sellwood Bridge discussions with community members.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:25 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
JANUARY 27, 2009**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	1/29/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, January 29, 2009	012709cw-1
2	Handout	1/27/09	Budget Themes for 2009-10	012709cw-2
1	Memo	1/27/09	To: Metro Council From: Chris Deffebach Re: Making the Greatest Place Products Date: January 27, 2009	012709cw-3
1	Booklet	1/27/09	“Our Place in the World” The Portland metro region, Global Challenges, Regional Strategies, Homegrown solutions, January 27, 2009	012709cw-4
1	Booklet	1/27/09	“State of the Centers, Investing in our communities” January 2009	012709cw-5