

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 29, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused), Rod Park (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:01 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC HISTORY PRACTICUM AT METRO

Becky Shoemaker, Metro Record's Officer said she was here today with Dr. Katy Barber (Professor of History at Portland State University) and students Mike Lindberg and Kevin Thomas to provide an update about the Metro History Project and our partnership with the Department of History at Portland State University.

Since 2005, students enrolled in PSU's *Introduction to Public History* class have had an opportunity to work on one of three practicum projects at Metro. The projects were designed not only to match the students' course requirements, but also to address the Agency's ongoing need to document its history. The Metro projects were as follows:

Project A: Digital Archive of Metro Elected Officials

The goals of this project were to research and document the public service of Metro's elected officials, and provide public access to the information through web-based technology.

- Students have been working with primary resources to research councilors' terms of office, internal and external committee assignments, and policy initiatives, broaden their understanding of Metro, and formulating questions in advance of conducting their oral history interviews
- Following the interviews, students prepared a transcript, solicit feedback from their councilor before preparing a final copy of the transcript, and identify materials for inclusion in the Metro Digital Archive

Milestones

- To date, 20 oral histories have been conducted
- 26 potential interviews remain to be completed
- With 11 previous councilors confirmed deceased, they would be looking for ways to reconstruct their public service by conducting interviews with colleagues, family and friends, and collecting as much evidence of their tenure as is possible.

Thus far, the oral histories that have been collected have added a dimension to the Agency's archives that prior to 2005, did not exist – stories of individual experiences balanced with greater historical topics pertaining to Metro as a public agency. In the end, when the recordings and transcriptions were entered into the public record, councilors would have told their story the way they wanted it told. The oral histories of our elected officials enhance the public record with discussions of interpersonal relationships, decision making processes, and political dynamics at the city, county, regional, and statewide levels. They reveal the issues our elected officials encountered, and how those major concerns are relevant today. As a research tool, oral histories add undocumented life experiences, reminiscences, and perspectives to the historical record, and allow the public to comprehend more fully the history of Metro and the impact individuals can have on the communities in which they live.

Project B: Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) and Metropolitan Service District (MSD) Collections

The goal of this project was to gain intellectual control over the records of Metro's predecessor agencies –the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) and the Metropolitan Service District (MSD) – and enhance public access to the records. Students involved in this project have had an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes in preparing archival materials for use by the public by:

- Conducting inventories of vast array of materials and developing strategies for organizing and preserving the contents of the collections based on archival best practices

Milestones

- A finding aid to the CRAG Collection has been drafted, and was ready for public consumption, until new materials were discovered that will need to be reviewed and organized for inclusion in the collection
- MSD records have been inventoried and organized; hopefully in the fall, another group of practicum students will be able to construct a finding aid.

To understand the Metro of today, one has to understand its predecessor agencies. The CRAG and MSD Collections provide details about the issues that were important to policymakers in the Portland metropolitan area between 1966 -1978. These records provide an invaluable context to help researchers and the public understand the ideas and processes that shaped the region.

Project C: Metro Timeline

The goal of this project was to research and prepare content for a web-based timeline reflecting the key milestones of Metro's development as a regional government. PSU practicum students used their research and technical skills to:

- Review existing web-based timelines for design ideas
- Conduct interviews with Metro personnel and examine resource materials to gather content for the timeline

Milestones

- concept for the timeline has been developed and we continue to add and refine the content
- Next step: Seek a partnership (perhaps with PSU) to develop a timeline prototype

The Uses of Public History

Much of the work embodied in these projects lay within the domain of public history. Public historians:

- Collect, appraise, organize, and preserve the documents to promote public access.
- Create places for historical inquiry to happen
- They look for ways to communicate the past to a variety of audiences

The political documents and oral histories in the Metro archives provided invaluable information linking current day conditions and organizations to past decisions. They also offered biographical information about the leaders of the region, and provide the essential evidence of government activities. Histories were written on the strength of the available evidence. If the evidence itself was incomplete, so was the history. To the extent that documents in the CRAG and MSD Collections were preserved, and the narratives of former councilors were collected, Metro's history was preserved and can be shared. In essence, the active identification, management and preservation of Metro's historically significant records ensure accountability to the citizens of the region and beyond, not just in the present but into the future.

Conclusion

As most of Council was aware, Metro's 30th anniversary as a directly elected regional government was January 4, 2009. In achieving this milestone, our efforts to compile an orderly and significant chronicle of the Agency's achievements, its controversies, challenges and personalities remains critical to the public, crucial to Metro's continued governance, and essential to scholars, planners, and other governments. As a PSU student stated in 2006,

"This public, historical effort is in the very spirit of Metro's inception, to provide the public with governance that honors the very best of democratic engagement and civic practice."

In closing, rather than having a defined beginning and end (like most projects), the Metro History Project was a process that was large in scope and dependent upon ongoing collaborations with regional partners such as Portland State University. Ms. Shoemaker sincerely thanked:

- Professors Katy Barber and Bill Lang for our mutually beneficial partnership
- The PSU students who participated in the projects over the past four years. To date, a total of 35 students have contributed over 1,050 hours of work to the Metro History Project.
- The councilors who have contributed their invaluable stories (and in some cases, their mementos) to the project.
- Members of the current Metro Council for the direction you have given staff to seek collaborative opportunities in the community and for your ongoing support of the Metro History Project.

With this, she invited Dr. Barber to share her perspective about the collaboration between PSU and Metro, and the students to provide Council with a brief overview of their project and share some of the reflections about their practicum experience.

Professor Barber said she was grateful to talk about the collaborative partnership with Metro. PSU was one of the major university's recognizing civic engagement. She defined public history and what was included in public history. The History Department was pleased to name Metro as a partner. She talked about their projects with Metro as well as other entities such as City of Vancouver. She said there was recognition by the students that their projects with Metro made a difference to the region. She noted Becky Shoemaker's efforts to work with Portland State University and the recognition from the students of her professional work.

Mike Lindberg, PSU student, talked about his project on oral history. He talked about interviewing Larry Cooper, a former Metro Council and his research on Mr. Cooper. He noted Mr. Cooper's pride

in being part of Metro such as the Convention Center and the Zoo. He felt this was a very valuable experience.

Kevin Thomas, PSU student, said he represented the students who worked on the CRAG and MSD records. He had worked on the timeline at the exact time that Metro was formed. He noted that this was his first graduate class in history. He talked about archives, a fundamental part of research. He noted that people across the county and around the world accessed Metro's records. The archive project was insurance that Metro's history would be preserved. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to work on these records.

Councilor Harrington commented about the value of the digital archive. She talked about her personal experiences with the Oregon Historical Society and further learning. She noted that just this week they had a group of leaders from Canada were here to learn about Metro. The work that they were doing helped ensure future leaders. Councilor Collette talked about future Metro leaders and how these projects could help. Councilor Hosticka also thanked the group. He talked about his own experience being interviewed. He asked if there was a plan to keep these updated. Ms. Shoemaker said she had asked to interview several current councilors at the beginning of the project. They were planning to do follow up interviews with those councilors. Councilor Liberty talked about future historians and the impact of those interviews. He said this intersection in looking at the past will help with our look at the future. Council President Bragdon asked about how he accessed this information. Ms. Shoemaker talked about her intent to share this information through the web.

4. METRO CENTRAL STATION COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE SLATE OF GRANTS

Karen Blauer, Sustainability Center, introduced the Presenters: Cheryl Thoen (Environmental Community), and Helen Bernstein (grant recipient/Store to Door). Karen Blauer, coordinator of Metro's Community Enhancement Grant Program provided a background on our enhancement grant program. It was established in 1985 by act of the Oregon Legislature. The basic premise of the program was that communities immediately around solid waste disposal facilities should be compensated for "hosting" services needed and used by residents of the region. Funds were derived from a 50-cent surcharge on each ton processed at the facility. Monies were awarded through a competitive process for projects and programs that benefit local residents or the property within the targeted area.

Metro Central was one of 4 enhancement grant programs associated with garbage facilities in our region. Details about each program can be found on Metro's web site.

Funding guidelines were an excellent fit with this Council's goals and objectives for our region.

- Those goals include
 - Great Places where residents can enjoy vibrant, accessible and physically distinct places to live, work and play;
 - Environmental Health where the region's wildlife and people thrive in a healthy urban ecosystem;
 - Economic Vitality where residents and businesses benefit from a strong and equitable regional economy; and
 - Smart Government modeled by Metro offering a fiscally sound, efficient and congruent system of public services provided by the most suitable unit of government.

Metro Council authorized a committee of local community activists to work with Councilor Rex Burkholder to solicit, review and award funds for neighborhood projects.

Members of the grant committee included:

- Pamela Ake (Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association)
- Cheryl Thoen (representing the environmental community's interests) and
- Larry Magee (Cathedral Park)
- Jimmy Stahly (Linnton)
- John Bradley (Northwest District Association)
- Arnie Rochlin (Forest Park)

Each brought to Metro's process a highly-respected grass-roots knowledge of their community. We were fortunate to have their wisdom and vision guide Metro's community grant process.

She then turned over the presentation to Cheryl Thoen and Helen Bernstein who offered highlights of past projects and the slate for 2009.

President Bragdon and Metro Councilors, the Metro Central program has invested more than \$2.8 million in 264 local improvement projects since 1991. This program inspired and motivated ordinary people to step forward and make something extraordinarily positive happen in their neighborhood.

An important part of being accountable for the use of public funds was evaluating the effectiveness of projects selected for grants. Metro executed contracts with grantees that required tracking and reporting on project outputs and outcomes.

We asked one of our grant recipients, Helen Bernstein, Executive Director of Store to Door, to help us present today. Store to Door has a proven track record spending Metro grant funds efficiently and effectively to provide weekly grocery shopping and delivery to Portland area seniors and people with disabilities.

Helen has a varied background – from teaching fitness and dance classes to working as the Director of Senior Services at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Since she moved to Portland and began with Store to Door, Helen has continued to share her passion for service to help Northwest Portlanders age with dignity. Ms. Bernstein talked about one of her clients who wished to remain as independent as possible and not burden her family. She explained the process for assisting these clients including clipping coupon, creating a shopping list and doing the grocery shopping for her. She said above all else the client valued her independence. She provided further information about Store to Door and its volunteers. She talked about the goals of the organization. She noted Metro's contribution and how the funds were used.

You can see why Metro awarded Store to Door a grant in 2008 and the organization was a candidate for another award this grant cycle. On behalf of our committee, thank you Helen and Store to Door volunteers for using Metro grant funds to support this critical service in our community.

Cheryl Thoen talked about the Slate of projects for 2009 grant cycle. This year, the committee reviewed 28 applications and selected 22 neighborhood improvement projects to fund. The total allocation was approximately \$136,000 in amounts ranging from \$850 to \$18,000.

Council had been given a complete list of selected projects. Here was an overview of them:

- 7 projects help rehabilitate, upgrade or increase the value of property owned by local non-profits that serve the community... including a new roof for Linnton community center; new steam radiators and a sound system in the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center; and infrastructure for a new farmer's market in St. Johns.
- 3 projects preserve or enhance natural areas and improve public awareness of them ... including the Friends of Baltimore Woods outreach campaign to increase awareness of a 30-acre strip of deciduous woods along the Willamette River.
- 11 grants will improve or increase recreational areas and programming ... including resurfacing 4 public tennis courts; and offering scholarships to low-income youth and seniors so they can participate in age-appropriate activities and programs.
- 13 projects improve neighborhood appearance, cleanliness, safety and environmental quality ... including the installation of a bike corral and racks on the main street in St. Johns; and staffing neighborhood cleanups in NW Portland.
- 6 programs increase recycling opportunities ... including transportation costs for a truck to pick up unwanted household furnishings and donate them to low income families; and 3 weeks of a colorful re-used art puppetry program for 120 school-aged children.

AND

- 19 projects directly benefit youth, seniors and low income people ... including hiring 5 elder craftsmen to supervise 30 minority male high school students in an apprenticeship program in the building trades; creating a part-time service opportunity in exchange for tuition credit for a 4-person field crew that will help with trail maintenance and restoration projects in Forest Park; providing one-on-one mentoring for elementary school children and theatre arts for middle school kids; adding a supplemental second meal delivered with intensive volunteer services to improve the total wellness of 24 frail, homebound elderly.

She said, Council, we are proud to present the 2009 slate of projects. Before fielding questions, we would like to take a minute to offer our observations and comments about the Metro Central grant program. Ms. Thoen said this was her the last year of her second term. She had been on the committee for four years. Each year she had been struck by the number and range of projects that were requesting funding. This had been a wonderful window for her into activities that were happening in her neighborhood. She talked about the tools check out system for those individuals who may know how to do home repairs but couldn't afford the tools. She said these grants provided a chance to help organizations be successful. She appreciated the flexibility in the grant program to focus on projects that were timely. She thanked Ms. Blauer in supporting the committee and those who were requesting funds. She also thanked Metro for continuing to support this program.

Councilor Harrington thanked the group for their presentation. She spoke to challenges of spreading the money around. She noted the impact on the community. She said this committee did a great job of role modeling for other programs. They supported programs that helped the geographic area. She asked Ms. Blauer about the four facilities. Ms. Blauer said the fourth facility was affiliated with the closing of St. John's Landfill. Councilor Harrington talked about evaluating the previous grant recipients and her hope to share this information with other programs.

Councilor Collette wondered what web presence this committee had. She suggested links to the grants. She noted Oregon City used the grant money somewhat differently. She felt this was an exemplary program. Ms. Blauer said there was a grant presence on the Metro web. She spoke to links to the specific enhancement programs. They had a list of current and past projects on the

web. Council President Bragdon thanked Ms. Thoen for her four years of service and Ms. Bernstein for her work in the community. He spoke to the economic impact and the age ranges who participated in this program. Metro Council presented the Zoo Foundation members with a plaque.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Consideration of Minutes for the January 22, 2009 Metro Council Regular Meeting.

Motion:

Councilor Harrington moved to adopt the meeting minutes of the January 22, 2009 Regular Metro Council.
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Vote:

Councilors Harrington, Liberty, Collette and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 4 aye, the motion passed with Councilor Hosticka abstaining from the vote.
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6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1 **Resolution No. 09-4019**, For the Purpose of Recognizing the Outstanding Fundraising Efforts of the Oregon Zoo Foundation, Employees, and Volunteers in Support of the Predators of the Serengeti Campaign.

Motion:	Councilor Liberty moved to adopt Resolution No. 09-4019.
Seconded:	Councilor Collette seconded the motion

Councilor Liberty invited the Oregon Zoo Foundation members and Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director to come to the testimony table. He read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Vecchio shared a brief power point of the Predators of the Serengeti. He talked about approaching the Oregon Zoo Foundation to bring a lion exhibit back to the Zoo. He said the Board decided to make that campaign more than just a lion exhibit. Their goal was \$5 million. They exceeded their goal as well as completing the goal early. They wanted this campaign to be about conservation as well as the exhibit. He talked about the donations and fund raising efforts. He said the community loved the Zoo. They had broken ground on the exhibit in September. Sometime this summer they would see the big predators back at the Zoo. He thanked the Metro Council and Councilor Liberty for starting the campaign. Suzanne Bishop, Board Chair, thanked the Council, particularly Councilor Liberty and former Councilor Newman. Ms. Gunther said she was honored to be a part of this campaign. Other committee members added their comments. Councilor Liberty asked clarifying questions about the exhibits. Mr. Vecchio said the public was going to get much more than just a lion exhibit. He explained other parts of the exhibit. He also talked about the Zoo's outstanding staff and how their ideas were part of the exhibit.

Councilor Collette said she was honored that she was one of the Oregon Zoo Foundation Board members. She talked about the Foundation's role and that their efforts were really about conservation and education. This was a truly dedicated Foundation. The goal was getting people to understand nature. Council President Bragdon said the project was already getting participation from an alternative high school that was involved in the design of the project. The students and teacher really appreciated their opportunity to participate. Mr. Vecchio talked about the educational components at the Zoo.

Vote:

Councilors Collette, Harrington, Liberty, Hosticka and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 5 aye, the motion

passed.

7. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Michael Jordan, COO, thanked the Oregon Zoo and its Foundation. He would be hosting the cities and counties administrators tomorrow at Metro. He had been asked to testify in Salem. Finally, Mayor Dee Westcott passed away this morning. There will be a memorial service on February 7th.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor Harrington said very few people were aware that they could buy their transit tickets at their local grocery store. She urged people to buy their tickets in advanced.

Councilor Liberty said last night Professor Tom Sanchez from Utah presented on Equity in Transportation.

Councilor Harrington said Monday night she will be a CPO 7 talking about High Capacity Transit.

Councilor Collette said she was sad to hear about Dee Wescott's passing.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Prepared by



Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
JANUARY 29, 2009**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
5.1	Minutes	1/22/09	Metro Council Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2009	012909c-01
4.0	Slate of Grants	2009	To: Metro Council From: Karen Blauer, Sustainability Center Re: Metro Central Enhancement Grant Program Proposed Slate 2009 Funding Cycle	012909c-02
6.1	Power Point Presentation	1/29/09	To: Metro Council From: Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director Re: Power Point Presentation on Predators of the Serengeti	012909c-03
4.0	Brochure	1/29/09	To: Metro Council From: Karen Blauer, Sustainability Center Re: Store to Door brochure of services	012909c-04