

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 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.

Objectives:

- Highlight and Discuss Key Urban and Rural Reserves Milestones
- Confirm strategic use of growth forecasts
- Direction on Urban Growth Report Review

I. Meeting Purpose (5 minutes) – Robin McArthur

President Bragdon: Reviewed January Road Map: Council approved of updates. Would prefer to have a package recommendation.

Councilor Hosticka: Would act as a funnel for Council opinion and Michael Jordan, COO, would act as funnel for staff as a way to coordinate decision making.

Councilor Park thought he heard that Council did not want a COO recommendation. Yet he was hearing yes.

Councilor Collette: said it did not matter who the recommendation came from. It should be a Metro recommendation, no matter who released it.

President Bragdon: there should be a consolidated COO recommendation in September that Councilor Hosticka (Council) would help frame. There should be some written roles and responsibilities that would be checked on.

Robin McArthur: Trying new technique for providing information and update on status. She would like feedback on this strategy.

II. Urban and Rural Reserves Key Decision Points (60 minutes) – Councilor Harrington, John Williams

Councilor Harrington: policy questions still needed to be better articulated and Phase 4 would provide this.

Councilor Liberty: wanted to know how big the “threatened” areas were (threatened = for urbanizing)

Councilor Burkholder: wanted to know when the Council would have a chance to give Councilor Harrington recommendation/thoughts on reserves. Councilor Harrington said they would have an opportunity to review the results (first and second screening) in March 2009. Councilors Liberty and Burkholder wanted further opportunity to review what the study areas were. Councilor Burkholder requested a Reserves a tutorial.

Councilor Burkholder: requested a map that showed when Council 1) gets to give input and 2) has to make a decision on reserves. He, along with Councilors Liberty and Park, expressed sentiment that they did not feel they had been given opportunity to give input. Councilor Harrington reiterated this would happen in March with the technical report.

Councilor Liberty: wanted to make sure that reserves was tied to “Aspirations” work.

III. Framing Growth Forecasts in the Context of Making the Greatest Place – hand-out (20 minutes) – John Williams

John Williams, Regional Planning Manager, presented an updated farming growth report in the context of reserves. They added specific months instead of seasons.

Mr. Williams presented “Farming Growth Forecasts in the Context of Making the Greatest Place.” He showed the tentative timeline. Councilor Liberty wanted to know when in the timeline Council would have to address gaps between local aspirations and regional vision. Ms. McArthur said this would occur in April. Councilor Harrington did not think the “Local Aspirations” process had taken into account that some of the work of economic development, services, etc., was a mixture of private and public investment. When analyzing the results we should filter for this process piece.

President Bragdon: wanted to bring discussion back to Farming Growth. For the “Aspirations” parking lot: unincorporated areas and reserves, when would all this be discussed with elected officials (not just staff), not all aspirations can be credited, the conflicts between local aspirations and regional vision.

Reactions to timeline presented by Mr. Williams:

Councilor Liberty: wanted a reality based baseline for investment – needed an accurate infrastructure assessment. “What we need v. what we have.”

Council approved of the Farming Growth Framing document but with the inclusion of fiscal impact.

IV. Urban Growth Report (UGR) (60 minutes) – John Williams/Malu Wilkinson

Malu Wilkinson: Summarized the new approach to the Urban Growth Report: range forecast will be performed for demand side, not for supply side.

Councilor Park: Suggested inclusion of a statement re: purpose of the UGR.

Councilor Liberty: Objected to characterizing UGR as a “snapshot.”

Councilor Burkholder: Summarized the purpose of the UGR as a data document to help with future policy choices.

Councilor Park: Asked for clarification re: housing needs analysis map.

Mr. Williams: Map was meant to illustrate geography of needs analysis.

Councilor Liberty: Objected to geography presented; not intuitive units of analysis. Groups of cities would be more useful. City boundaries ought to be used where possible. Where not, group cities along lines that reflect real estate sub-markets.

Councilor Harrington: Suggested the use of CDBG or other established geographic categories.

Councilor Hosticka: Concerned re: the appearance of housing allocation by area.

Ms. McArthur: Planning staff would present a range, not a data point.

Mr. Williams: UGR is meant to focus on policy choices in play.

Councilor Park: Concerned about the appearance of sub-regional planning.

Ms. McArthur: Geography presented would not be used for employment forecasting.

Councilor Burkholder: Would prefer a participatory planning exercise with chips, rather than allocations of housing by area.

Councilor Liberty: Clarified that info presented was the “do nothing” scenario, i.e. an extension of current trends and current policies.

Ms. McArthur: Believed the Council’s consensus position was: use intuitive geography and a range forecast. City boundaries should be used where possible, groups of cities when necessary.

Councilor Park: had concerns about the “packaging” of data.

Mr. Jordan: Goal was to present clear and useful information to city councils.

Councilor Hosticka: was satisfied, as long as it was clear that the analysis was based on trends, not an allocation by area.

President Bragdon, Councilor Liberty, Mr. Jordan: Analysis displayed trend, not destiny.

Ms. McArthur: Confirmed general consensus w/ thumb count. Next subject: use of range to describe capacity.

Ms. Wilkinson: Described chart displaying: capacity for residential development within existing UGB, based on a range of policy-based assumptions.

Councilor Liberty: Does line represent 100% build-out, i.e. statutory maximum?

Councilor Hosticka: Agreed: only “zone capacity” could be displayed as a flat line on a graph.

Ms. McArthur: Range capacity focused on policy levers that would affect capacity.

Councilor Liberty: Market uncertainty also needed reflected, in addition to policy choices. In fact, policy choices should be the last variable considered.

Councilor Collette: Can upzoning be reflected?

Councilor Park: Re-frames: what level of inefficiency can/should be tolerated? That is, what percent of under-building of zoned capacity?

Ms. McArthur: requests a discussion of pros & cons of the approach.

Councilor Hosticka: Pro: a more accurate reflection of state of knowledge.

President Bragdon: Con: this analysis prompted a “numbers game” rather than a qualitative discussion of urban form.

Councilor Liberty: The “numbers game” was inevitable because of state law.

Councilor Burkholder: Can the same analysis be mapped? Can geography be incorporated to highlight sub-regional dynamics?

Councilor Hosticka: Will range capture mathematic uncertainty, or policy uncertainty? Would prefer to highlight mathematic uncertainty, so that discussion/debate could focus on policy uncertainty.

V. Agenda Topics for Upcoming 2009 MGP Council Work Sessions – hand-out (15 minutes) – Robin

Ms. McArthur: Summarized the draft calendar for work sessions.

Councilor Park: Asked about sequencing of MGP/UGR process.

Ms. McArthur: Clarifies: there are two relevant time frames: 20 years and 50 years.

Councilor Hosticka: Did the law require that urban reserves state a defined capacity? Or was the test based on adequacy to accommodate projected growth?

Councilor Liberty: Asked how often Urban Reserves work will/should be done? Suggested that it should not be timed with UGB/UGR work.

Councilor Harrington: The question of “suitability” needed to be adequately discussed. County Coordinating Committee work brings “suitability” issue to the fore.

President Bragdon: Confirmed that the Council supported the agreed-upon “regional roadmap” timeline for MGP work. Would like to see more info/discussion re: growth management, rather than a discussion of boundaries (UGB and urban/rural reserves).

Councilor Burkholder: Would like a clearer presentation of decision points/action points within the 2009 MGP Calendar.

VI. Next Steps (10 minutes)

Plan of Record (as provided by Ms. McArthur, Regional Planning Director):

Below is a summary of the decisions/direction provided by the Metro Council at the February 18 Metro Council work session on the “Making the Greatest Place” (MGP) initiative.

Joint COO Recommendation

Decision: Councilor Hosticka was designated the lead Council member to work with COO Michael Jordan to formulate a draft resolution integrating all elements of MGP in a September release that will kick off the “decision-making phase”.

Follow up: Councilor Hosticka will draft and circulate a statement articulating roles and responsibilities for this assignment.

Framing Growth Forecasts

Decision: Council supported the document “Framing Growth Forecasts in the Context of Making the Greatest Place” dated February 17, 2009 with the following caveats/clarifications.

- Use ranges to frame all forecasts

- Early and often state that the ranges are forecasts, not allocations
- Add the word “governing bodies” to the end of Item 10 on page 3
- Forecasts should always highlight intent and use of Metroscope
- Document should be clear that we will support local aspirations that are consistent with Region 2040; regional discussion are needed to discuss trade-offs, policy issues

Follow up: Council identified a number of issues for staff follow up.

- Some elected officials do not seem to understand our quest for “local aspirations”
- Counties should be asked to provide aspirations for unincorporated areas in their responses
- At March 18 work session, staff to explain how local aspirations are integrated with other MGP elements
- How can region get a better handle on relative costs of providing for development throughout region and how much are we currently spending on infrastructure?

Preliminary Urban Growth Report (UGR) - Residential

Direction:

- Staff asked Council members to provide comments on draft outline by 5:00 p.m. February 20.
- Document should describe purpose of UGR and differences between current approach and previous one
- Describe range of possibilities
- Focus on policy issues

Decision: Residential UGR should provide *range* forecasts for geographies that make sense (using jurisdictional boundaries where appropriate (35k population and above), use multiple zones for city of Portland, use housing market areas to fine-tune boundaries)

Range Capacity

Decision: Use range to describe capacity in preliminary UGR to reflect range of our knowledge; uncertainties (mathematical and trends) and focus conversation on consequences associated with different policy choices.

Other

- Council reaffirmed MGP roadmap schedule (approved at February 4 Council work session)
- Need better description of overarching MGP strategy
- Research needs to be translated into action items (e.g., actions resulting from concepts in toolkits; centers, corridors, & investments)
- Concern that focus is on “UGB/reserves” decision rather than “growth management”
- How and where do performance measures fit in?

- What about aspirations after May?
- Infrastructure – need more teeing up to be able to make decisions in 2010 and 2011
- Council members should to attend “local aspiration” city council meetings outside their districts to get a flavor for regional issues.

Non Agenda Items: FYI Materials in Packet

- Infrastructure Analysis (memo attached) – staff will proceed as outlined in the memo
- Regional Transportation Plan Schedule (memo attached) – staff will proceed as outlined in the memo

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Ellis
Policy Associate

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	2/18/09	Metro Council Making the Greatest Place Work Session revised agenda, February 18, 2009	021809cw-1
1	Analysis	2/18/09	2009-2029 Preliminary Residential Demand and Capacity Analysis (UGR), draft annotated outline, February 18, 2009	021809cw-2
1	Draft	2/18/09	Framing Growth Forecasts in the Context of Making the Greatest Place, Draft, February 17, 2009	021809cw-3
1	Timeline	2/12/09	Draft Regional Reserves Steering Committee 2009 Agenda Items, February 18, 2009	021809cw-4
1	Calendar	2/18/09	2009 Making the Greatest Place Council Calendar, February 18, 2009	021809cw-5