

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, February 24, 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, FEBRUARY 26, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the February 26, 2009 Metro Council agenda. Michael Jordan, COO, said sometime during Saturday, February 28th the Metro Recycling hotline would receive its two millionth call. He said there would be media. Councilors discussed e-waste.

2. FY 2008-09 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Margo Norton, Finance Director, introduced the second quarter financial report agenda item. She framed policy, execution, and policy direction. She talked about reporting processes and transparency of materials. Councilor Harrington asked if materials were available on the Metro website. Ms. Norton said it was available on the web. Ms. Norton said bottom line, key revenues were down and expenditures were being closely monitored. She talked about zoo successes and park revenues. She discussed construction excise tax and quarterly status, and tonnage numbers (see attachments). She went through expenditure control processes, including reductions, and shortfall fill strategies.

Councilor Harrington asked about system rate coverage in correlation to Walsh Trucking business. Ms. Norton said natural area acquisitions were down, and the zoo bond had not kicked in yet. She talked about different projects delayed. Councilor Hosticka asked why natural area acquisitions were down. President Bragdon said discussions would happen later. Councilor Hosticka asked about personnel changes. Mr. Jordan explained personnel and “pay by performance” changes and processes. Ms. Norton explained excise tax trends related to the current recession. Councilor Harrington asked about timeframes for healthcare rates. Ms. Norton said spring. Councilor Hosticka talked about spending bases and wondered if Metro had a similar capacity and base. Ms. Norton discussed accelerated repayments in the agency. Councilor Burkholder said he would like to see a budget update included in monthly newsletters.

3. QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Jordan introduced the Quarterly Management Report agenda item. He said it was a draft and a work-in-progress. He discussed status of various projects around the agency. He talked about moving forward. President Bragdon talked about looking at a broad landscape, including the Glendoveer facility. Councilor Liberty talked about neighborhood aspirations to make Glendoveer more of a neighborhood asset. Councilor Harrington asked about policy discussion

timelines. Councilor Park asked about restrictions. Mr. Jordan discussed acquisitions in Forest Park. He went through the list of projects and management issues.

Councilor Harrington talked about urban and rural reserves plans and subsequent direction. She asked about the Regional Climate Change Task Force and when something would happen. Scott Robinson, Deputy COO, explained transitions. Councilor Liberty asked about extensions. Councilor Burkholder said there would be a work session scheduled to discuss climate change action and updates. Councilor Park asked about correlating information on tonnage. Councilor Burkholder said the report was a good way to communicate. He talked about Connecting Green and said he thought there should be a budget discussion on levels of support and the best allocation of resources. President Bragdon talked about Connecting Green policy development and staff efforts.

4. INCREASE IN PARK ENTRY FEES AND REPEAL NON-PARK ENTRY FEES

Mike Brown, Property Services Director, introduced the entry fee increase agenda item. Jeff Tucker, Sustainability Center, discussed financial specifics and the need for adequately meeting operational costs. He said from a management perspective, the fee increase would line the agency up financially for future years. President Bragdon asked about comparisons to other parks and comparable analysis. Mr. Brown said there were universal fee increases around the state of Oregon. Councilor Harrington talked about impacts when increasing across the board, and how those increases compared. Mr. Tucker said the most revenue was made on single vehicles and not buses. Councilor Liberty asked if there was a philosophical reason for fee increases. Councilor Park asked about extending the fee across the board. Councilor Harrington said distributed information was a little confusing. She identified need. She said it appeared the Council had no authority in setting fees, and the structure of the code was not clear. She said rate setting should not be delegated around the agency. Councilor Collette asked the purpose for taking out certain specificities. Councilor Harrington said it would have been useful for that information to be included in the staff report. Councilor Park asked about crowd control. Mr. Brown explained management strategies.

5. OREGON ZOO ADMISSION FEE INCREASES

Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director, introduced the zoo admission fee increase agenda item. He said reasons for admission increases included best business practices, but he did not want to exclude any residents because of monetary reasons. He said fees had not been raised for four years and it was time to revisit the idea of admission increases. Craig Stroud, Finance Manager, said the admission increase was approximately 8% or 75 cents. He said costs had increased which necessitated fee increases. He talked about enterprise operations. He discussed the role of the zoo as a regional asset.

Councilor Collette said the media was asking about the bond in addition to fee increases. Councilor Harrington said it would be useful to see information on the shuttle. She would have liked to see hours of operation and costs per rider on the shuttle. She talked about cost avoidance. Councilor Liberty talked about avoiding capital costs. Councilor Hosticka did not understand how membership related to fees. Mr. Vecchio explained membership structure. Councilor Burkholder asked what percentage of visitors were members and whether there was a relationship between fee increases and membership. Mr. Vecchio said attendance and membership both increased. Councilor Burkholder talked about relationships and trends. Councilor Liberty asked about

predicted demand curve. Mr. Stroud discussed dynamics, including predicted increases in attendance numbers. President Bragdon asked about looking at rates for different seasons.

6. BREAK

7. NATURAL AREAS ACQUISITION

President Bragdon introduced the acquisition agenda item. He said three purposes for the agenda item included: 1) introducing Councilors Collette and Harrington, and the rest of the Council, on the acquisition process; 2) status on the acquisition program; 3) executive session update. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Conservation Director, introduced the acquisition team and their background. She discussed refinement plans, the scientific process, and target areas (including market dynamics). The acquisition team went through the acquisition process from target area identification to actual acquisition. Councilor Collette asked about approaching property owners in target areas. Councilor Liberty asked about market value. Councilor Harrington talked about the “willing seller” and whether the “willing” aspect had changed at all. Councilor Harrington complimented the acquisition team for their professionalism and consistently good work. President Bragdon asked about reporting relationships and the integrity of the acquisition program.

8. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hosticka discussed legislative updates. Councilor Burkholder talked about his business travels. Councilor Harrington talked about initial screening for urban and rural reserves.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:35 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
 FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	2/26/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, February 26, 2009	022409cw-1
3	Talking points	2/24/09	Second Quarterly Management Report presentation to Council, February 24, 2009	022409cw-2
3	Summary	2/24/09	Metro Management Report At-a-Glance – 2 nd Quarter FY08-09, February 24, 2009	022409cw-3
4	Graph	2/24/09	Excise Tax Tonnage, February 24, 2009	022409cw-4
3	Table	2/23/09	Metro Management Report: 2 nd Quarter FY 2008-09, February 24, 2009	022409cw-5
4	Ordinance	2/24/09	Amended ordinance, Ordinance No. 09-1211A	022409cw-6
4	Staff Report	2/24/09	Amended Staff Report, Ordinance No. 09-1211A	022409cw-7
3	Report	2/24/09	2008-09 Quarterly Report – Second Quarter	022409cw-8