

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 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, APRIL 9, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Bragdon reviewed the April 9, 2009 Metro Council agenda.

### **2. ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Andy Cotugno, Metro, discussed master planning for the process of PDX and range forecasting. Council President Bragdon asked if all agreed to have Mr. Cotugno supervise this process, Metro not convening but yes participating. Councilor Harrington questioned what we stand to gain by participating when we don't have enough funding for our own projects. Councilor Liberty asked about the cost of a third runway and or high speed transit to Seattle.

President Bragdon discussed the purpose of today's meeting.

### **3. REGIONAL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE**

Scott Robinson Metro Deputy Chief Operating Officer, framed the presentations that will follow as well as explaining the purpose of the Sustainable Metro Initiative (SMI). Mr. Robinson touched on where Metro currently is in the process. He then discussed the 'work plan' showing what is next for the SMI and how it fits into the budget, also covering the accomplishments of SMI to date. Councilor Burkholder asked how do we inspire performance and excite the staff, and thought process was very positive. Councilor Hosticka said he though it was positive. Councilor Liberty said with the SMI being at six months of action it is working well and asked at what stage is there a big evaluation showing how SMI is working, including Councilor Harrington said that with the rest of the implementation beginning over the next year she feels that this will help Metro to become more successful. President Bragdon said this is going the planned direction; he is very pleased with the SMI and then asked about the systemic side versus implementation side and order of the two. Councilor Collette asked about organizational memorandum of understanding (MOU) and whether or not there is and MOU between each department. Councilor Park said he is appreciative of the breaking down of silos and having the organization in proper alignment.

### **4. PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Teri Dresler, Director Parks and Environmental Services, gave a brief background and covered the mission statement for Parks and Environmental Services. Ms. Dresler then covered the 'quick wins' and accomplishments as a result of the Sustainable Metro Initiative(SMI). She gave an

example referring to Julie Cash and her being on loan to the communication department, discussing the benefit that SMI played in this process. Ms. Dresler also covered upcoming significant reporting that PES will be sharing with the Council. Ms. Dresler then covered challenges that will need to be overcome in each program within Parks and Environmental Services. Councilor Burkholder shared concern about operational management, asking about the restaurant/shop area in the Metro courtyard stating that he supports the idea of a restaurant. Councilor Hosticka asked about the 4-park opening plan and whether or not it is still in place. Councilor Liberty asked about the management decisions with the zoo. Councilor Harrington recommended the changing of a name in one of the programs. Council President Bragdon said the leadership in this department getting the SMI into action was commendable. Councilor Collette commended Ms. Dresler for the work that PES has done. Councilor Park asked about the reduction in scale house hours.

## **5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Jim Middaugh, Director of Communication, discussed this being his first chance to speak before the council. Mr. Middaugh shared his observations since he began at Metro, then covering the communication mission and what is next. He covered a chart of functions in the communication department and a break down of the management team.

Councilor Burkholder mentioned the opportunity through the volunteers and outreach that allows for more people to be talking the 'Metro brand'. Councilor Hosticka agreed that the priorities are in best possible direction. Councilor Liberty agreed the direction of becoming more proactive is a great idea, and that there is a tough task ahead to make sure that happens. Councilor Harrington appreciates the discussion of not enough resources, also expressing concern about outreach to children, and the IT capabilities. Council President Bragdon mentioned that the team in communications is full of very talented people and with their new management they are showing great improvement already. President Bragdon also asked 'how we go about getting the councilors involved in the process [with the communication team].' Councilor Collette said the improvements are outstanding. Councilor Collette expressed concern about making sure that we really brand Metro and we move forward. Councilor Park expressed concern about the desire for a cohesive message without physically centralized staff.

## **6. BREAK**

## **7. STRATEGY CENTER**

Stacey Triplett, Metro, discussed what the Council told the Strategy Center their role should be at Metro. Ms. Triplett discussed the new alignment, the mission/work to be done, and the accomplishments of the strategy center. Michael Jordan Metro Chief Operating Officer discussed the phasing out of past projects of management staff and movement towards a cohesive strategy center. Ms. Triplett then presented a call to action for the Council to co-create the next step with Strategy Center. Mr. Jordan talked about the position of the COO and Metro and the due process that has been shortened for all meetings and projects at Metro. Councilor Harrington expressed concern of the image that is conveyed from the presentation about the purpose of the strategy center. Councilor Collette mentioned the valuable amount of work that the individual staff does, but doesn't really know where this fits in structurally with the Sustainable Metro Initiative and the direction of Metro. Council President Bragdon mirrored the opinions of Councilor Collette. Councilor Park said one way to improve the communication with the council would be to work more closely with the council policy coordinators.

## **8. SUSTAINABILITY CENTER**

Jim Desmond, Metro, presented the mission, functions, accomplishments, quick wins, significant reporting, and the challenges that are to come. Councilor Hosticka asked about the development and growth of the Capital grants program [nature in neighborhoods].

Councilor Liberty discussed that growth of nature in neighborhoods and that even in the down economy Metro still expects things to develop towards the future of the nature in neighborhoods program. Councilor Harrington mentioned the program redevelopment and that each department needs to educate children on the work Metro does, as well as strong concern for the Regional solid waste grants program and where it stands in the SMI. Council Liberty asked about whether or not pricing or waste reduction are more influential, also asking how and what role volunteers can play as an entity of Metro. Councilor Collette asked about place making, and discussed her excitement of the new transparency among the nature in neighborhoods program. Councilor Park talked about the process that had to take place with a shift in Goal 5 and Nature in Neighborhoods.


## **9. RESEARCH CENTER (DRC)**

## **10. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Hosticka gave a brief legislative update about the Metro budget amendment -1 and Hillsboro's -2 amendments. With close to a month left it looks as though most of what Metro wants will move. The council also discussed the Bill regarding public parks on farm lands. Councilor Liberty discussed the Construction Excise Tax meeting that took place at the Metro Regional Center on 4/7/09.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF**  
**April 7, 2009**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1	Agenda	4/7/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, April 7, 2009	040709cw1
1	Agenda	4/9/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, April 9, 2009	040709cw-2
3-8	Handout	4/7/09	Printed PowerPoint presentation slides	040709cw-3