

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2009  
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 1:10 p.m.

### 1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

The Council did not discuss Council regular meeting agenda items because the Council meeting for September 3, 2009 had been canceled.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Jordan discussed the approved Council changes regarding the relationship between Metro and the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Center (MERC). Metro would engage new and existing commissioners on the MERC commission about the role of the commission and amendments to Title 6. A retreat is being scheduled with the commissioners for the first week in October to discuss these topics.

Mr. Jordan also announced that staff is preparing a capital budget amendment to raise the appropriation level of certain projects. Also, adopted budgets are now available and will be delivered to Council offices today.

### 2. NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Jim Desmond of Metro reminded the Council that the Council requested an update on the Nature in Neighborhoods (NIN) program including transitional occurrences that affect the whole agency. Heather Kent was the new program director and was responsible for, among other things, coordinating the departmental overlap within the NIN program.

Ms. Heather Kent then updated the committee on the NIN program. The program was started with the Council resolution adoption in 2005 which instructed the creation of "... a coordinated regional fish and wildlife habitat protection, restoration and greenspaces initiative..." There are five action areas laid out in the council resolution and progress has been made in all of them. They are as follows:

- *Habitat-friendly development*, which has been illustrated through Metro projects, technical assistance from community partners (like the Home Builders Association) and urban development projects aimed at Placemaking;
- *Restoration and Stewardship*, which has been fueled by bond funding and enhanced because of collaboration with community partners. A question for the future is whether Metro will continue to invest in funding these initiatives;
- *Land Acquisition*, through regional and local bond measures and in coordination with other programs and funding;
- *Flexible Development Standards*, including updates to the Title 13 compliance and putting low-impact development into code. Also, a draft Urban Tree Canopy study has been done to look at tree policies around the region;

- *Ecosystem Monitoring and Reporting*, based off the 2008 State of the Watersheds and can now analyze data by jurisdiction *and* by watershed. This year there will be a report on *voluntary* actions by jurisdictions.

President Bragdon then opened the floor for comments and questions from the Council. Councilor Park recommended further work in leveraging Restoration and Enhancement grants with the Capital grant program in an additive way. Councilor Harrington questioned the methods for gathering data in the Urban Tree Canopy report and where the study was initiated. Ms. Kent responded that the report was commissioned by Metro and is still in a draft, data-only form. Councilor Harrington requested a briefing before the report is rolled-out.

Councilor Park suggested that all of the presented information be tied together and the data used in a way that ensures jurisdictions can look at each other's progress. Councilor Liberty suggested that a benchmark report halfway through the 10-year program period would be helpful and that in addition to private homes, new large government facilities can be looked at from a sustainable design perspective. Councilor Harrington commented that the program has a great foundation and now needs to make adjustments and establish action steps. She added that the way the agency talks about restoration can be more impactful and requested more guidance on how to champion flexible development standards being put into practice. Councilor Bragdon recommended that the NIN program collaborate with Mike Hoglund's work in Solid Waste and Recycling. Councilor Collette commented that the success of many NIN programs depends on how Metro champion's them. She suggested that Restoration and Enhancement grants would be good matching grants for federal funds and also, that a case study of one of the green schools in the region would help set an example for the benefits of sustainable building. Councilor Hosticka commented that he is pleased with the information presented and glad to see there is still energy and commitment moving forward.

Councilor Harrington added that she was pleased that NIN was not synonymous with Goal 5 and that it is an aspirational program instead of a regulatory construct. Councilor Liberty suggested that the agency connect the movement created by this program with density and sustainable practices happening around the region. Councilor Harrington suggested that the COO recommendation could use more pictures to help better tell the story.

### **3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Council President Bragdon discussed upcoming ballot measures and credibility behind new tax efforts. Councilor Liberty reminded the Council that Professor Myron Orfield will be visiting Portland to discuss equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of growth around the region. He will have the opportunity to present at multiple locations around the region and will include proposals for regional action in his presentations. Councilor Liberty welcomed suggestions for public or private meetings that could be particularly valuable for Prof. Orefield's visit.

Councilor Park commented on a recent cable news show he did with the city of Forest Grove. In it, the city expressed happiness with the planned Blue Lake Nature and Golf Learning Center and is discussed the possibility of fast-tracking the project. He turned the floor to Metro attorney Dan Cooper to discuss an e-mail he received about gun rights at Metro facilities. Mr. Cooper addressed the question of regulatory responsibility of the right to bear arms at Metro facilities, particularly because state law says that only cities and counties can restrict carrying arms in public. He said he has have found that there are ordinances on the city and county level that restrict carrying arms on regional facilities to those with a concealed weapon permit.

Councilor Bragdon requested that Metro begin the process of banning smoking in all public Metro facilities.

With no further business Council President Bradgon adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
3	Memo	9/2/09	To: Metro Council From: Freda Sherburne, Sustainability Center Re: Waste Reduction Education at Outdoor School (internal) Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2009	090109cw-1