

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2003
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Brian Newman, Carl Hosticka, Rod Monroe, Rex Burkholder, Rod Park

Councilors Absent: Susan McLain (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 2:30 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. METRO/AIM SCHOOL PROJECT

Gina Whitehill-Baziuk, Planning Department, said the AIM High School students would be presenting the Powell Boulevard Survey Project. Metro had approached Carly Fuhrman, AIM High School Principal, to involve students in the project. This project was a semester long. Ms. Whitehill-Baziuk recognized Mike Alson and Metro staff that had also participated in the project. Shelley Washburn, an AIM teacher, said the idea was to send the students out into the community. Metro wanted them to connect with the public and gathered comments. She hoped Metro would have more partnerships like this one. She introduced the AIM students; Kevin Mesplay, Michaele Paulson, Amethyst Monken, Sara Richards, Lacey Buchanan, Jaime DeLaRosa, Jann Denniston.

Amethyst Monken, AIM student, gave an overview of their community service project with Metro. They conducted a survey and interviewed parents. She began the power point presentation on the project (a copy of this presentation is included in the meeting record). Sara Richards, AIM student, said Metro had a problem, they didn't know how to best reach the public to get their input on the Powell Foster Boulevard study. She talked about developing the survey and spoke to the benefits of the project to Metro and AIM students. She gave an overview of the survey process.

Lacey Buchanan, AIM student, talked about the survey questions. They practiced the survey on each other. She noted that some of the participants did not speak English and spoke to how they overcame this obstacle. Jaime De La Rosa, AIM student, summarized the results of the survey. Jana Denniston, AIM student, provided the survey conclusions. They thanked Metro, City of Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation.

Councilor Monroe said he felt AIM students were remarkable young people. These students had blossomed in this alternative school setting. He noted their successes. David Douglas School District was very proud of these students. This district was the only district that was not cutting any school days in this year. AIM students would be able to attend a full year. He acknowledged Cary Fuhrman, Principal. She really cared about these students. In turn, these students had given

Metro a real ear to what the community was thinking about this corridor. These students had truly contributed to the community and Metro.

Councilor Burkholder expressed his appreciation about this innovative way of approaching the community. He asked about how they dealt with people who did not speak English. What were some of the techniques used? Mr. De La Rosa, a student who spoke Spanish, said he studied the survey beforehand so that he could assist Spanish-speaking individuals. Ms. Richards also said some who did not understand English could read English. Ms Buchanan added that some of the children translated for their parents.

Councilor Hosticka said he and Councilor Newman had both been asked by the press today about new lanes being added to I-205 and how long it would take before these lanes will filled up? He asked the students if they had any thoughts about this issue? Ms. Fuhrman said there had been substantial growth in the area.

Councilor Newman welcomed the students to the world of planning. When he was first getting started he had to conduct surveys on buses. They had learned a marketable skill. More governments were surveying and polling the community to be more effective. They had a similar exercise for the South Corridor Study. They had polled their peers. They found out that students' feedback was different. He asked if they thought they would have found different conclusions. The students would they would probably focus more on the shelters for buses as well as bicycles and pedestrian access.

Councilor Park asked what had they learned from going through this exercise? Ms. Richards said she learned a lot about Metro. It was helpful to learn about the process of how decisions were made. Ms. Monken said she thought that the parents' comments were interesting. Ms. Buchanan said they had also learned about street design. Council President Bragdon thanked the students for their efforts and noted how much Metro appreciated the help.

4. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Jim Desmond, Parks and Greenspaces Director, said they were here to present their volunteer services report for the year (a copy of which is found in the meeting record). This was a great example of what this department aspired to be. The program combined stewardship and community resources in all corners of the region. People worked at 34 sites. They were helping the lands that Metro owned and saving the public a significant amount of dollars but were also providing opportunities to build community. This was a program that Metro should be proud of. He acknowledged Ms. Heather Nelson-Kent, Ms. Lupine Hudson and Ms. Mary West for the work they had done. He thanked the volunteers for their contribution.

Lupine Hudson, Co-Manager of Volunteer Services for Regional Parks and Greenspaces, shared the results of their work this year. She reported that they had about 9 people a day contributing to this volunteer program during 2002. This was an amazing commitment. She recognized the volunteers' contributions to the mission of caring for our parks and greenspaces.

Mary West, Co-Manager of Volunteer Services, said in 2002 they had 1250 volunteers donate close to 17000 hours. This was valued at about \$270,000. They had worked on 34 sites, which was up 25% from last year. Increases were primarily at their openspaces throughout the region. They had also worked with 24 community groups including schools, scouts, friends groups and other non-profit organizations. The most effective way to put a face on these statistics was to recognize the human story behind these hardworking volunteers. This past year they had a

volunteer appreciation dinner. Over 150 volunteers, staff and Councilor Hosticka attended the appreciation dinner. Awards were presented to Metro's outstanding volunteers.

Ms. Hudson said the variety of skills and resources that these volunteers bring to our department and to the agency was inspiring. She talked about Terese Fisher's contributions to the program. She was one of the Volunteer Program award recipients.

Terese Fisher said she was at first fearful about leading a group as a volunteer naturalist but found it was very fulfilling. Metro was willing to invest in her and therefore, she was more willing to invest in Metro. Through her experience she had learned to celebrate and appreciate the diversity of life. She had been reminded of life's potential. She was excited about sharing this with others. Her goal was to have the volunteers have a positive experience. She had also created a monitoring project database. She kept coming back because it was rewarding. Ms. Lupine and Ms. West took the time to make sure that the volunteers were rewarded and appreciated. She was honored to know and work with the Park's staff. She was also contributing to the community, another reason why she kept coming back to volunteer. Volunteering was also a way to meet many people, open a new world, and help others learn about it. Third, the department made it easy to volunteer. They seemed to find a way to match volunteers with their skills. The department sent a message that the volunteers were valued. The experience had provided her with many opportunities. She was not taken for granted. She was asked rather than expected, that made a difference in her continuing to volunteer for Metro Parks and Greenspaces. She was thankful to be part of this program.

Ms. West introduced Cassie Mellen and spoke to her contributions to the program. Cassie Mellen, said she had volunteered through Americorp. She was one of a four-person team. The project focused on eliminating Japanese Knotweed. She explained each person's role on the team. The four-member team had contributed 2400 volunteer hours. Ms. Mellen talked about their goals in the project. She also noted why she volunteered. She thought it would be a good way to expand her horizons and explained further some of what she had learned. She kept track of the data and created a database. They had taken a full watershed approach to removal of this weed. The overall public response was positive. She noted the accomplishments and the contribution that this program and project did for the community.

Ms. Hudson said there were stories behind each volunteer. There was still a lot of work to be done but knowing that these volunteers were helping was helping them achieve that goal. The volunteers were one of our most valuable regional resources. She noted the end of the year report.

Councilor Hosticka echoed and reinforced some of the statements having attended the appreciation dinner. He thought that while we try to reduce everything to numbers around here the real contributions were in the kind of sense of community that Mr. Desmond talked about. There was a strong sense among the volunteers that they were a special group that was contributing to the natural and human world in addition to a sense of personal accomplishment. From his perspective that was why the program was so valuable to Metro.

Councilor President Bragdon thanked the volunteers for all they had done and also recognized that it took staff to recruit, retain and manage the volunteers for the program.

5. OREGON CONVENTION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Pat LaCrosse, Chair, provided the Oregon Convention Center Advisory Committee report and gave a summary of the report including the purpose and mission of the committee. He said they

met five times and noted the membership of the committee. The committee looked at marketing, food services, parking, circulation, financing, budgets and other issues. He noted that on page 4 of the packet was the list of recommendations, which he summarized (a copy of which is found in the meeting record). He thanked the Metro staff that was provided to support the committee. He also acknowledged Councilors Burkholder and Park for their involvement.

Joe D'Alessandro, Portland Oregon Visitors Association, talked about what the group examined in depth. They felt Metro had selected a fine marketing agency to market the convention center. They felt the Visitor Development Fund Board would be a good group to continue the charge. He noted those who were part of the Board. He pointed out that marketing conditions had changed dramatically over the last two years and will continue to be very fluid. The changes concern them greatly. The economy, September 11th and any proposed war would impact business at OCC. Long term they knew that the convention will be successful but were concerned about the short term impacts.

Brad Hutton, incoming chair of the Visitors Association, replacing Mr. LaCrosse on the Visitor Development Fund Board said they were excited about the prospects of the center. The recommendations were key to the success of the convention center particularly the headquarters hotel recommendation. They endorsed the plan.

Councilor Burkholder echoed his appreciation for the committee. It had been a new subject area for him. The committee had done a good job of reviewing the existing structure. He noted Michael Morrissey's contribution as a staff person. The committee left them with some questions. He believed they had given the partnership some good suggestions for success in the future. They were also volunteers working for Metro.

Councilor Monroe said he had been an advocate of promoting tourism. He noted the State's and this City's beauty. He talked about legislation at the State that would help promote our State and talked about the roadblocks. He wondered if there were any attempts at compromise to bring common interests together. He wanted to know if there was anything that they could do to enhance this opportunity.

Mr. D'Alessandro talked about the bill and its history. Two years ago this bill had come up in the legislature and POVA opposed it. He explained why. The Oregon Lodging Association compromised and let the local lodging tax be increased. He talked about the investment and the incredible return. He talked about governments targeting the hotels to tax.

Councilor Monroe asked if there was any room for compromise. He wanted to see the bill pass but asked what they could do. Mr. D'Alessandro talked about the broad based support for the bill. The lodging groups felt they had already compromised.

Councilor Park said this committee had done a very good job. It has been a very difficult time with financial surprises. They had built back that support. He acknowledged Jeff Stone's contribution as well. There was some finish up business and he wanted to know if they would meet one more time. Mr. LaCrosse said they would be willing to meet again to finish up anything that was necessary.

Councilor Newman thanked them for their efforts. He asked if it was unusual for a convention center to be profitable or was it understood subsidies would need to continue? Mr. D'Alessandro explained what the convention center did for the community. Subsidy was the industry standard.

Council President Bragdon thanked them and talked about the real challenge in operating the center while under construction. Mr. D'Alessandro invited all to tour the facility.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Consideration of minutes of the February 13, 2003 Regular Council Meetings.

Motion:	Councilor Hosticka moved to adopt the meeting minutes of the February 13, 2003, Regular Metro Council meeting.
---------	--

Vote:	Councilors Hosticka, Burkholder, Monroe, Newman, and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 5 aye/1abstain, the motion passed with Councilor Park abstaining from the vote.
-------	---

7. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

7.1 **Ordinance No. 03-995**, For the Purpose of Amending the FY 2003-03 Budget and Appropriations Schedule by Transferring \$3,500,000 from Contingency to the Debt Service Account, Authorizing Defeasance of Certain Solid Waste Revenue Bonds, and Declaring an Emergency.

Council President Bragdon assigned Ordinance No. 03-995 to Council.

8. RESOLUTIONS

8.1 **Resolution No. 03-3275**, For the Purpose of Granting an Easement to Oregon Department of Transportation for non-park use through Metro Property in Canemah Bluff.

Motion:	Councilor Monroe moved to adopt Resolution No. 03-3275.
Seconded:	Councilor Newman seconded the motion

Councilor Monroe explained the reasons for the resolution, He urge support.

Councilor Burkholder asked about preserving the bluff in its natural condition. He also asked about property across the river. What was the impact on the natural area and the disturbance in the area? Was this easement meeting our goals?

Mr. Jim Morgan, Parks and Greenspaces Department, said the wire mesh screening was not typical. It would be visible but not as visible as some of the previous installations. The anchoring would occur over the cliff. They had been working with the engineer to make it as aesthetic as possible. They had the area appraised. He spoke to fair market value and what was being paid for. It would have minimal impact. Most of the valuable resources were on the cliffs above.

Councilor Hosticka asked if the easement was for the purpose of the mesh only. Mr. Morgan said the easement allowed them to do what was necessary to make sure the rock face was safe. He explained what it would mean to grant the easement. Councilor Hosticka read the easement grant portion of the resolution. Mr. Morgan corrected himself and said it was for the sole purpose of the mesh. Councilor Burkholder said he was still uncomfortable with this easement. He made suggestions about what he would have liked to see from ODOT. He felt that there was a cost to Metro.

Councilor Monroe said there were times you had to make compromises. He felt that this was an appropriate compromise to protect the citizens who used the highway. He urged support.

Councilor Park asked Mr. Fjordbeck, Senior Assistant Counsel, what was our liability in this decision. Mr. Fjordbeck said it released Metro from liability. Joel Mortan, Senior Assistant Counsel, said he thought there would be liability if we choose to do nothing.

Vote:

Councilors Park, Hosticka, Burkholder, Monroe, Newman and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 aye, the motion passed.
--

9. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor Newman said this morning he met with Congresswoman Hooley and other individuals about a service lane on I-205. She was looking into funding. It had been discussed at Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation as well.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Prepared by

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20,
2003**

ITEM #	TOPIC	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOC. NUMBER
6.1	MINUTES	02/13/03	METRO COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2003 SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL	022003C-01
4.0	REPORT	2002	TO: METRO COUNCIL FROM: METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES RE: 2002 VOLUNTEER SERVICES REPORT	022003C-02
4.0	VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	SPRING 2003	TO: METRO COUNCIL FROM: METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES RE: METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES SPRING 2003 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	022003C-03
3.0	POWER POINT PRESENTATION	2/20/03	TO: METRO COUNCIL FROM: AIM HIGH SCHOOL RE: AIM HIGH SCHOOL AND METRO POWELL BOULEVARD SURVEY PROJECT	022003C-04