

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: None.

Council President David Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 1:04p.m.

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

The Council discussed Resolution No. 09-4093 on Thursday's Council meeting agenda which would grant an easement to the City of Portland.

Councilor Collette announced that she is hoping to bring a memo for council to discuss and/or endorse at Thursday's Council meeting concerning the value of continuing the RTP process on the action plan that has already been adopted.

COO Michael Jordan announced that the MERC commission will be meeting this week and will be dealing with their first live labor negotiation.

2. REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM UPDATE

President Bragdon reminded the Council that the next few work sessions will include updates on the initiatives the Council approved about a year ago.

Mr. Mike Wetter updated the Council on the regional parks system initiative. In 2004 the Metro Council agrees that, "Metro should take a collaborative approach to solve regional problems and lead regional initiatives." In this initiative Metro has used the concept of regional leadership to convene a broad array of public, private and non-profit organizations to create a region-wide trail network. Metro's investment in this program has been matched by a variety of other investors.

Mr. Jim Desmond discussed the challenge the agency and other park services around the region are addressing around how to take care of additional land that Metro acquires through the regional parks system initiative. This year we have aimed to have a specific conversation around funding and build recognition that this regional system will be an amenity for all citizens.

Mr. Wetter reported that staff is currently reviewing the Council allocation and measuring the status of proposed deliverables, including the Intertwine bran, Intertwine products, phase one and two of the website launce and (park)ing day. These components have been a success so far, as have communications. Mr. Wetter then reviews the progress for each of the original "petals" of the Intertwine which include acquisition, active transportation, regional systems, conservation education and conservation. He also summarized the foundation and federal operations funding the program is receiving. The ultimate outcomes of this initiative are to conserve, acquire and build an active transportation network, build and maintain the regional trail system and foster stewardship through conservation education.

Councilor Burkholder requested that Metro look into identifying and strengthening the connection between cultural capital and natural capital through this program. Councilor Harrington requested that the (park)ing day photos from all of the locations be synched into a slide show for the Intertwine website. President Bragdon commented that he is interested in this program as a model for collaboration and community development for the agency.

3. URBAN GROWTH REPORT DISCUSSION

Ms. Malu Wilkinson led the Council in a discussion about the Urban Growth Report (UGR). This is an opportunity to have a discussion before the report goes to Council through resolution on December 10th. The memo included in the work session packet lays out the recommended changes. Ms. Wilkinson highlighted a few of the changes that are of particular significance.

Councilor Harrington suggested that the underlined language under Section 1 directing “staff to work with MPAC to identify site opportunities for industries that prefer larger parcels...” be moved into Section 2 which discusses capacity. Councilor Burkholder suggested that mechanisms to aggregate and develop properties should be included so that available property can actually be made usable. Councilor Park requested that the term “parcel” be clearly defined as it is currently used in a variety of ways throughout the document. Councilor Harrington suggested that Making the Greatest Place (MGP) should be tied into the language so that it is clear the UGR is part of the larger MGP umbrella. Councilor Burkholder requested that in the 4th whereas of the resolution “cost of housing” be changed to “cost of living.”

Ms. Wilkinson then moved on to attachment two which includes changes based on public comment and MPAC recommendations. Some changes of note include changes to the cluster analysis, implementation of MPAC’s recommendation for large lot size ranges and an increase in the Parks deduction which results in ripple changes throughout the document.

Councilor Hosticka expressed concern about the changes to the large lot size range. Ms. Wilkinson responded that it will be important to distinguish between preferences, demands and needs. Staff will go through and look at the use of the word “need” throughout the document to ensure that preference for a parcel type and need for a parcel type are differentiated. Councilor Burkholder confirmed that the dollar figures are in 2009 dollars, not 2045 dollars with inflation.

4. CONGESTION PRICING PILOT PRESENTATION

Mr. John Williams of ODOT introduced Jeff Buxbaum who will present to the Council on congestion pricing pilot projects worldwide.

Mr. Buxbaum started by iterating the following important lessons for Oregon which he concluded from his research:

- Pricing needs to be developed within a broader set of goals, objectives and strategies;
- It is Difficult to transfer success in other places to here or anywhere else;
- Projects take years to develop and often take more than one attempt;
- The easiest congestion pricing concepts to advance quickly or those with no obvious losers.

He then discussed international experience in congestion pricing pilot projects in relation to the following topics:

- Possible Objectives and strategy
- Scheme Design
- Technology and Business Systems
- Prediction and forecasting

- Traffic effects
- Environmental effects
- Economy
- Equity
- Appraisal
- Acceptability
- Transferability

He added that in Portland, implementation will largely depend on political commitment and reminded the Council to not underestimate the very long time scale needed for these types of projects. He then discussed various other implementation considerations, adding that no one has ever priced something that was formerly free, something that Oregon will likely have to do to implement this project.

Councilor Collette commented that she is interested in a pilot project at a smaller scale and would like to explore the idea. Mr. Dave Williams of ODOT discusses what ODOT is doing in studying implementation.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION

Councilor Park informed the committee that Metro employee Ralph Gilbert passed away the evening of November 30 and expressed condolences for his family and friends. Councilor Park will inform the Council when funeral services plans are made available.

President Bragdon adjourned the work session at 3:44 p.m.

Prepared by,



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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	12/3/09	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, December 3, 2009.	120109cw-1
2	Executive Summary	11/9/09	Assessment of Congestion Pricing and HB 2001 Report: Executive Summary.	120109cw-2