

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, February 2, 2010
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 1:03 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, February 2, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE/ CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Bragdon discussed the agenda for the upcoming regular Council meeting. COO Michael Jordan notified Council that MERC will be meeting Wednesday and that proposals for using MTOCA funds should be made shortly by MERC.

2. NATURAL AREAS AUDIT FOLLOW-UP

Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn summarized the results of the follow-up Natural Areas audit. She said that seven of eight recommendations made in the original audit had been implemented. She also mentioned that some of the recommendations were implemented differently than suggested, but that as long as the underlying intent of the recommendation was met, the implementation was accepted. For example, the Natural Areas team decided not to follow the recommendation to prioritize goals as stated, and the auditing team accepted their reasoning behind the change.

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Natural Areas Program Director, emphasized the usefulness of the recommendations in making the Natural Areas program stronger and more accountable to citizens by better showing them where their taxpayer dollars are being spent. She noted that the remaining recommendation to be implemented is to include as an accountability measure the future costs of operations and maintenance of the Natural Areas program, and that this is in progress. Jim Desmond, Director of the Sustainability Center, added that this audit has been informative for the greater conversation on performance measures

Councilors asked questions, mainly with regards to the in-progress recommendation on future costs, and the decision not to prioritize project goals. Councilors also indicated support for the auditing process and acknowledged the value of the audit in improving the Natural Areas program.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF FY 2010-2011 BUDGET

Jim Middaugh, Communications Director, gave a presentation on Transforming the Regional Discussion. He illustrated how Metro's efforts are diverse but intertwined with many similar goals, and said that this needs to be effectively communicated to the public as well as other important stakeholders in Metro's projects.

Andy Shaw, from the Strategy Center, discussed the Regional Investment Plan and the effort to target regional investments to get the greatest return for the input. He explained the different steps of a draft three-year plan and budget for a regional investments strategy (see handout) that could be included in a future Capacity Ordinance.

Mr. Jordan linked Mr. Shaw's and Mr. Middaugh's presentations, saying that we've targeted the three year end date as a fundamental assumption for the plan and that communications work is starting to get molded around this end goal, including working with stakeholders at all levels from local government to voters. He sees this as a transformational stage for the agency and for the region.

Councilors discussed, mainly clarifying the specifics of the budget presented by Mr. Shaw and clarifying the ultimate goals for the three-year regional investments program. Councilors also expressed concern that from Mr. Shaw's handout, passing a funding proposal in 2012 seemed to be the main goal of the regional investments plan. They stressed that in fact all of the work done along the way needed to be important and useful independent of whether a funding plan was actually passed.

Kathy Rutkowski, Budget Coordinator, discussed the specifics of PERS rates scenarios and how they will affect the budget. Mr. Jordan referred Councilors to an updated list of possible budget-balancing measures that he had brought up at a previous Work Sessions. Councilors gave their comments on the changes to PERS rates, and to Mr. Jordan's updated list of budget-balancing measures.

4. BREAK

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING: ISSUE AND ORDINANCE DISCUSSIONS

Councilor Liberty explained that a fund had been created with about \$850,000 of Metro money to invest in housing choice in areas targeted for development in the 2040 plan. Megan Gibb from the Development Center gave an overview of what has gone on since August when loan criteria were developed, and the difficulties and roadblocks to progress that have arisen. These include potential conflicts with the Regional Framework Plan and finding a third-party loan administrator. Another roadblock was that there was a need to change the Metro Charter to give Metro authority to undertake an affordable housing project by designating housing choice a "Matter of Metropolitan Concern". This ordinance will be presented to the Council at an upcoming meeting and a draft was presented at this Work Session. Finally, no loan proposals have been received although the deadline has passed.

Councilor Liberty followed with comments on the need for an independent evaluation of risk and the chance that the loan will be repaid, fees for loan administration, and the fundamental question of whether there are good investments that can be made with this money. To answer that question, project staff had asked the Oregon Opportunity Network whether the money can be usefully used, and what kinds of projects would benefit from the money. The OON responded with a list of possible projects (see handout). He recommended that Council allow time for loan proposals to surface and from there it can be decided whether the money should indeed be used for this type of project.

Councilors expressed concern about whether the loans would be repaid. They also agreed that the scale of the loan program might ultimately be too small to attract management and interest. Councilors discussed different options for using the money, and expressed support for the Ordinance granting Metro authority to undertake an affordable housing program. Ultimately Councilors seemed to agree that there is not much enthusiasm for continuing the project, but the groundwork is laid in case in case more funds come along that could rekindle interest.

6. RESERVES DISCUSSION: DIRECTIONS TO CORE 4 REPRESENTATIVE

Councilor Harrington opened the discussion on the results of bringing legal staff together from each of the Core 4 agencies.

Richard Benner from the Office of the Metro Attorney presented the draft intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) made between the three counties and Metro with regard to urban and rural reserves. He said that the three agreements were nearly identical, with the minor differences resulting from requests of the Counties. He discussed the decision to not put conditions in the IGAs but rather a statement of planning principles that would guide concept planning. Councilors asked questions on that topic and other specific items in the draft IGAs. They also raised concerns about including language on upzoning, how hamlets (such as Stafford hamlet) would fall under these agreements, and whether this allows for undesignated and urban reserves to be re-designated or opened up again for discussion.

Marcia Sinclair from Public Affairs summarized the preliminary results of public outreach efforts on the reserves process, which included public hearings, online comment forms, and other vehicles for obtaining public opinion. A more thorough analysis is forthcoming.

7. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/ COMMUNICATION

There were none.

Adjourn- 4:12 PM

Prepared by,



Sheena VanLeuven
Council Policy Associate

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
DATE, 2010**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	02/02/10	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, February 4, 2010	020210cw-1
2	Attachment	01/27/10	News Release: Natural Areas Audit	020210cw-2
2	Attachment	01/27/10	Natural Areas Audit Follow-Up	020210cw-3
3	Agenda	02/02/10	FY 2010-11 Budget Discussion Agenda	020210cw-4
3	Presentation	02/02/10	Making a Great Place	020210cw-5
3	Handout	02/02/10	Regional Investments Plan	020210cw-6
5	Attachment	02/02/10	Ordinance 10-1231 and Staff Report	020210cw-7
5	Memo	02/02/10	Oregon Opportunity Network to Metro Council: Affordable Housing	020210cw-8
6	Attachment	02/01/10	DRAFT Intergovernmental Agreement between Metro and Counties	020210cw-9
6	Handout	01/10	DRAFT Public Comment Report- Urban and Rural Reserves	020210cw-10