



METRO COUNCIL RETREAT

Meeting Summary

July 28, 2011

Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA), Madison Room

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Carl Hosticka, Carlotta Collette, Rex Burkholder, Kathryn Harrington, Barbara Roberts and Shirley Craddick

Councilors Excused: None

Staff/Guests Present: Dan Cooper, Andy Shaw, Ina Zucker, Kelsey Newell, Nikolai Ursin, Kathryn Sofich, Tony Andersen and Julie Wilson (Facilitator)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Council President Tom Hughes called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

The purpose of the retreat was for the Council to gain clarity on the expectations and responsibilities for the council liaisons and to reach agreement on the frequency and method of communication for the council liaisons.

President Hughes welcomed Ms. Julie Wilson of Water Solutions, Inc. as the retreat facilitator.

2. GROUND RULES

Ms. Wilson briefly overviewed the ground rules for the retreat. She emphasized that it is important to revisit the basic best practices of good communication regularly. (Ground rules handout included as part of the meeting record.)

3. QUESTION FOR COUNCIL

Councilors were asked respond to the question, "Are you satisfied with the way councilors communicate with each other?"

Councilors expressed concern that in general, members only interact during work sessions or formal meetings. Members expressed support for more informal, but planned council interaction. Recommendations included creating a safe common space for councilors to engage outside of formal settings. General support was expressed for holding time on councilors' calendars before each work session and/or regular meeting to allow for councilors to check-in with one another. Additionally, members supported holding the full 2.5-hour calendar blocks for work sessions and regular meetings even if the meetings are scheduled to conclude earlier.

Additional discussion included the need for a standard orientation for new councilors (e.g. building tour and staff contact/phone listing), the importance of celebrating large Council decisions and/or project milestones, and the best communication method to reach each councilor. Councilors also requested further discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Council President's staff and the Council Policy Coordinators.

4. LUNCH

Council held a working lunch.

5. CORE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILOR LIAISONS

In February 2011, the Council expressed support for continuing the project liaison system. Mr. Andy Shaw of Metro provided a brief overview of the core roles and responsibilities of the council liaison positions.

Council discussion included:

- Regional projects where Metro is a partner, but does not serve as the lead agency;
- Projects that fall into two or more council districts and therefore have multiple council liaisons; and
- Projects in local jurisdictions where Metro does not serve as a partner nor lead agency, but a councilor does serve as a liaison to the agency.

6. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Shaw lead the council in an exercise to determine the level and type of involvement councilors – on a personal level – would like in regards to 13 Metro priority projects. Councilors were asked respond to the question, “Where are my concerns/interests as a councilor and how do I want to be involved with the following projects?”

- Climate Scenarios
- Climate Preparedness
- Solid Waste Roadmap
- Economic Development
- Urban Growth Management Decision
- CIS – SW Corridor Plan
- CIS – East Metro Connections Plan
- Community Investment Initiative
- Intertwine – Big Picture
- Intertwine – System Investments
- Intertwine – Active Transportation
- HUD/Sustainable Communities
- CIS – Development Work

Councilors rated the 13 projects – on a scale of low-medium-high – for four types of councilor involvement: (1) political guidance, (2) policy guidance, (3) engagement guidance, (4) information needs. An additional category was listed for “general concern.”

7. REVIEW RESULTS OF EXERCISE AND DISCUSS

Six of the 13 projects consistently received medium to high ratings for each of the four types of involvement: Urban Growth Management Decision, Community Investment Strategy (CIS) – SW Corridor Plan, CIS, The Intertwine, Solid Waste Roadmap, and Economic Development.

Ms. Wilson asked the council liaisons for each of the above six projects to provide a brief project status update and then facilitated council discussion and questions.

Solid Waste Roadmap

Councilor Kathryn Harrington provided a brief project update; highlighting potential changes in solid waste technology, the region’s needs, and the system as a whole. She emphasized the need to address the long-range financial stability of the agency and more specifically the general fund generated by solid waste collection fees.

Council discussion included Metro's existing and potential revenue sources, public interest and political support for the project, and outreach to the solid waste industry. Additional discussion included parks funding. Council was in general support for convening a strategic budgeting committee.

Economic Development

President Hughes provided a brief overview of the economic development area. He described it partly a product of his 2010 presidential campaign, as addressing two approaches to economic development: (1) projects of the agency that affect economic development (e.g. industrial land inventory or Greater Portland, Inc. membership); and (2) a role as president in recruitment and retention of businesses for the region.

Some councilors emphasized need for a shared understanding of economic development and Metro's role in the region as well as Metro's relationship to Greater Portland, Inc. and the Portland PULSE. Additional discussion included Metro economic development opportunities (e.g. Headquarters Hotel). Council expressed general support in having a follow-up discussion on the topic.

The Intertwine

Councilor Shirley Craddick provided a brief overview of The Intertwine Alliance and its five petals: conservation education, active transportation, conservation, acquisition and regional system. She emphasized that the council needs to address how the petals work together as part of the larger system, and Metro and the council's role within the alliance.

Council supported scheduling a work session for a more in-depth update and discussion on the project.

Due to limited time, the council agreed to convene an additional retreat to discuss the remaining project areas. Council also agreed to schedule a strategic planning retreat later in the fall 2011. Additional discussion included including additional programs (e.g. brownfields) and need for a 2011 timeline to review upcoming fall council decisions.

8. ADJOURN

Seeing no further discussion, President Hughes adjourned the retreat at 2:46 p.m.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT WITH ORS 192.660(2)(D). DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO CARRY ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The council reconvened into an executive session held pursuant with ORS 192.660(2)(d), deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Prepared by,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 28, 2011

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
	Agenda	7/28/11	Revised July 28 Council retreat agenda	72811c-01
2.	Handout	7/27/11	Ground rules for discussion	72811c-02
5.	Handout	7/28/11	Examples to accompany active participation question	72811c-03
7.	Handout	7/28/11	The Intertwine: Notes for the 7/28/11 Council retreat	72811c-04