



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
Dec. 6, 2011
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Rex Burkholder

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 1:03pm.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE/COUNCIL AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 8, 2011/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro reported recent successes from the pioneer cemetery program, which has generated significant revenue increases from a newly implemented business plan that features new fees and products. Councilors asked if the cemetery staff could report back to Council on the latest plot designs.

Ms. Bennett also presented the audit committee's "clean audit" report that commended Metro's financial position and contained no management comment.

2. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY SCENARIOS : DRAFT PHASE 1 FINDINGS REPORT

Ms. Kim Ellis of Metro presented a revised draft of the Phase 1 Findings report for Climate Smart Communities Scenarios (CSCS). Ms. Ellis explained that Metro staff is in need of guidance from Council before the report is presented to MPAC (Metro Policy Advisory Committee) and JPACT (Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation) for acceptance in January 2012. Moreover, the Phase 1 Findings report, "Understanding Our Choices", will serve as a communications tool, illustrating the project's purpose, methods and goals as Metro staff transition into Phase 2, "Shaping the Direction".

Ms. Ellis guided Council through the report and highlighted revisions made based on councilors' feedback. Included in the "challenges for our region" page (pg. 10) is a text box that recognizes other climate-related initiatives at Metro. Also added to the report was the 2040 Growth Concept Map that identifies urban and rural reserves, as well as areas added to the UGB effective Jan. 18, 2012. Pages 16 and 17 display Phase 1 results from selected scenarios, and emphasize which policy areas and strategies are employed to reach the 20% GHG emissions reduction, or 1.2 MT CO₂e (metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent).

More information and new tables were added to pgs. 20 through 29 so that results from each policy area tested can be better understood in terms of reducing GHG emissions. Ms. Ellis explained that results from phase 1 ultimately reflect the need for collaboration among regional partners, flexibility from the state and leadership from Metro.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed the importance of acknowledging all of the work partner organizations, agencies and local jurisdictions have done to move the region to the 1.8 MT CO₂e benchmark. The Climate Smart Community Scenarios target is to reduce GHG emissions by an additional 20%, or to 1.2 MT CO₂e. Councilors commented that Metro moves quickly past current plans to achieve more significant results, but must not overlook the essential work done along the way.

There was discussion on how the community design policy area is prime measure for both reducing GHG emissions and for engaging local communities in efforts to improve neighborhoods. Councilors commented on specific wording within the “results at a glance” section of the report, and asked for explicit clarification on terms such as “system efficiency”. Suggestions on the wording in “understanding the results” of policy areas, pgs. 20-29, were also made, specifically regarding the sidebar that lists the benefits of each strategy.

When taking action was brought up, councilors agreed to endorse the report before its presentation at JPACT and MPAC.

3. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES

Hotel-Motel Tax State Legislation: Councilor Carl Hosticka introduced a legislative item regarding the state’s hotel-motel tax that Randy Tucker of Metro will support. Mr. Tucker explained that currently internet retailers such as Travelocity are buying hotel rooms, reselling them to consumers at a higher price, but are not remitting the tax. Mr. Dan Cooper of Metro confirmed that Council has direct financial interest, tax revenue to the agency, in supporting the passing of state legislation.

Council Discussion:

Councilors asked which party brought the bill forward to the Oregon State Legislature. Mr. Tucker explained that the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA) forwarded the bill because they too have an interest in monitoring and securing the hotel-motel tax, which is funneled to promote tourism and attract major activities, visitors and businesses in the state.

Natural Areas Oversight Committee: Councilor Kathryn Harrington reported that she had finalized a feedback letter for the Natural Areas Oversight Committee that included Council direction on phraseology and reorganization.

Parks Funding: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilor Shirley Craddick recounted their meeting with elected officials in the region to discuss new opportunities for parks funding. Among the ideas discussed were a service district and a local option tax. President Hughes explained that there was considerably less opposition to a local option tax than the service district.

4. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Carlotta Collette described her visit to the Oregon Zoo Foundation event.
- President Hughes reminded Council that the office has prepared a holiday card for regional partners.

- President Hughes will attend an Economic Alliance Summit with Allen Alley on Friday, Dec. 9 to discuss what local government can and can't do to boost the economy.

ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:39pm.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Springer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Josh Springer
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DEC. 6, 2011

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
	Agenda	Dec. 8, 2011	120811 Council Meeting Agenda	120611cw-01
2.0	Report	Dec. 5, 2011	CSCS "Understanding Our Choices" Phase 1 Findings Report	120611cw-02