



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
Mar. 13, 2012  
Metro Council Chamber

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

**Councilors Excused:** Councilor Shirley Craddick

Council President Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:02pm.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE /COUNCIL AGENDA FOR MARCH 15, 2011/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro asked Mr. John Williams and Mr. Ted Reid of Metro to briefly present an Inventory on Regulated Affordable Housing report, which was updated in 2011. Mr. Williams explained that Metro has transitioned from a regulatory to a partnership approach, now working to convene housing providers and provide regional reports with useful information on affordable housing. Mr. Reid noted that the inventory is intended to be used as a data layer in the regional “opportunity mapping” effort as well. Ms. Bennett indicated the Oregonian is interested in the supply of affordable housing per jurisdiction in the region.

Councilors discussed the challenge for local jurisdiction in supplying sufficient affordable housing without government involvement. There was reference to the state’s metropolitan housing rule and its impact in shifting the supply of housing in the region. Councilors discussed the usefulness of the affordable housing inventory for further analysis.

Ms. Bennett reminded Council of a reception for the Oregon Convention Center director candidates. Ms. Bennett also noted the Contract Review Board agenda item on next week’s Council meeting, referring councilors to Marvin Fjordbeck of Metro if they have any questions.

Lastly, Ms. Bennett asked Council for clarification on their position regarding the analysis of Opt In data. There was disagreement at a previous work session about whether or not to study Opt In data by counties or by Metro districts. Councilors ultimately determined that old data should not be reevaluated, that analysis should be conducted case by case and that if staff has any questions, Council will provide direction.

**2. SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT FOR CEMETERY OPERATIONS CONSULTANT**

Ms. Rachel Fox of Metro communicated that staff, with the interment verification and soil management plan, is working to improve operations in the cemetery program as well as increase oversight of contract grave opening. Based on direction from senior leadership, Ms. Fox asked staff to reach out to the cemetery and funeral industry for information on an independent consultant to

examine Metro's operations and plan. Mr. Robert Fells of the International Cemetery Crematory and Funeral Association's (ICCF) General Counsel recommended Mr. Paul Elvig of Everett, Washington, who has background in both the public and private sectors.

Mr. Tim Collier of Metro, who will serve as project manager, indicated that the goal is for Mr. Elvig to report back to staff prior to Memorial Day on what Metro is doing well and where improvement is needed.

**Councilor Discussion:**

Councilors discussed the business opportunities and liability cautions of orphan cemeteries Metro could pursue in the region. Ms. Fox indicated that the independent consultant and refined soil management plan will help with property acquisition decisions. Ultimately, councilors provided affirmative direction for the sole source procurement of Mr. Elvig's services.

**3. COUNCIL LIAISON/PROJECT PROPOSAL PROCESS**

Mr. Andy Shaw of Metro introduced the "Council Policy Development and Liaison System" draft document, which is intended to serve as a user guide for councilors and staff. The document describes how to bring new policy or project proposals forward and how councilors become liaisons to new and existing programs. Mr. Colin Deverell of Metro overviewed Attachments A, "Policy Development Framework", and Attachment C, "When is a liaison appointed?".

Mr. Deverell explained that after policy research is completed and compatibility with Metro's mission is confirmed, the scope of action will be considered and determined. The four possible actions are *no action*, *councilor initiative*, *council project* and *agency program*. If a proposal is designated as a councilor initiative, direct involvement by Metro is not necessitated. Council project require majority support and may require a liaison. Agency programs may require substantial agency resources, may require a liaison and must have majority support from Council.

**Councilor Discussion:**

Councilors discussed the role and capacity of Council Policy Coordinators in gathering necessary information on new projects and policies. There were questions about how much staff support councilors will have when initially investigating the feasibility of a new project of policy. Mr. Shaw noted the range of new proposals varying in the level research and staff time, which will be determined Council Office management.

Councilors mentioned the need for a political scan of proposals that considers public opinion, special interests and regional priorities. There was discussion about non-official projects that a councilor or councilors may want to pursue without direct Metro involvement. It was acknowledged that councilors work on projects independently and are asked to participate in non-Metro activities. Mr. Shaw indicated that if there are policy implications for Metro, Council should be addressed by the councilor working on the project.

Councilors asked that a lack of resources and/or funding be added to the language of why a project is not formally adopted by Council or the agency. Councilors then discussed the role of the liaison, and how this role has been approached differently among councilors. There was agreement on the

importance of orienting new councilors and staff with policy development and the liaison process, as well as basics such as a building tour.

#### **4. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES**

Councilor Collette reported on the annual JPACT trip to Washington DC and described productive and enthusiastic meetings with members of the Oregon delegation. Metro's effort to prioritize local projects in the region proved successful with Clackamas County's Sunrise System project receiving the top endorsement. Councilor Collette then asked the Council to endorse a thank you letter for those who joined the sign-on letter in opposition to House transportation bill (HR 7).

Councilor Rex Burkholder described the Willamette Valley Resilience Compact's work together among jurisdictional partners on climate solutions.

Councilor Harrington reported on upcoming modifications being made to the employment and industrial lands inventory.

#### **Councilor Discussion:**

Councilors discussed the available actions in response to grassroots efforts that could undercut local and regional planning. There was reference to a counter initiative put on the ballot by Metro in the early 2000s. Ms. Bennett warned Council that Metro as an agency can only provide factual information in an election and must avoid campaign language and materials. Councilors pointed out that efforts to impede planning affect the entire region and therefore should be given a regional vote. Moreover, councilors expressed concern about the impact said opposition could have on projects such as the SW Corridor. Council President Hughes described the position of current, supportive elected officials in Clackamas County as strong enough to maintain support for regional projects even with more targeted opposition.

Councilors expressed appreciation for Councilor Craddick's efforts to resolve the disagreement between Metro and the City of Troutdale.

#### **5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION**

- Councilor Harrington shared communication and data on tax exempt land and population in unincorporated areas
- Councilor Roberts reported on a ceremony in Salem that honored the late Betty Roberts and shared her decision to serve on a state committee tasked with examining the election and selection process of judges.

#### **ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:08pm.

Prepared by,



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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAR. 13, 2012**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
	Agenda	3/15/12	31512 Council Meeting agenda	31312cw-01
<b>1.0</b>	Report	2/17/12	2011 Regional Inventory of Regulated Affordable Housing	31312cw-02
<b>3.0</b>	Report	N/A	Council Policy Development and Liaison System	31312cw-03
<b>4.0</b>	Letter	N/A	Response to House transportation bill (HB 7)	31312cw-04
<b>4.0</b>	Handout	Feb. 2012	Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project: Health Impact Statement	31312cw-05
<b>4.0</b>	Letter	3/13/12	TIGER 4 Projects to Secretary Ray LaHood	31312cw-06
<b>4.0</b>	Handout	N/A	Summary of Meetings with the Willamette Valley Resilience Compact	31312cw-07