



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY
May 22, 2012
Metro Council Chamber

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

Council President Tom Hughes convened the Metro Council work session at 2:03 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE /CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Martha Bennett of Metro noted that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Oregon Convention Center hotel were issued on May 14. RFP questions are due July 29 and a final work group with Multnomah County and the City of Portland will be held August 8, which will recommend whether to proceed with the project.

Ms. Bennett also discussed the air toxics work with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Metro Staff has meet with DEQ staff to develop a memo for the June 12 work session.

2. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS – ENVISION TOMORROW DEMONSTRATION

Ms. Kim Ellis of Metro introduced the Envision Tomorrow presentation. Metro will begin case studies for the Climate Smart Communities scenarios. The Envision Tomorrow program can be used to support CSC as well as other Metro Projects.

Mr. John Fregonese of Fregonese Associates provided a demonstration of the Envision Tomorrow program. Envision Tomorrow is an open source program puts powerful tools in planners' hands to design and test land use decisions at a range of scales. Envision Tomorrow can be used for land use, transportation, housing, fiscal impact, environmental, and sustainability. The program integrates Return on Investment analysis with ArcGIS mapping. Mr. Fregonese conducted a live demonstration of the program by testing various building scenarios. Mr. Fregonese showed how variables like building height and parking space effect fiscal impacts.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed potential skepticism of the analysis and the perceived "man behind the curtain". Mr. Fregonese explained that compared to other analysis, Envision Tomorrow deals with more tangible projections, which are easier to understand. Councilors also discussed local communities concerns about infill and building size. The council discussed how the program could be used to evaluate relationship between land use, jobs, transit and other issues. Councilors wanted to know if the program could be used to test parking maximums for the RTP.

3. BREAK

Council recessed for 5 minutes.

4. FY 11-12 THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Margo Norton of Metro explained the fiscal year 2011-12 third quarter financial report. Ms. Norton compared this quarter to the same quarter last year. Last year admissions for the Zoo and other venues were down while parks and natural areas were high. This year venues revenues were high as well. Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC) has identified the need for additional food and beverage appropriations in the MERC Fund. It is not yet clear whether Parks and Environmental Services will need additional appropriations authority to address the removal of the derelict barge from M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Recent state economic forecast predict that Oregon will see slow growth in the near future. While the metro area will see better economic growth than the rest of the State, she still recommended that the agency proceed with caution. Ms. Norton reviewed recent AAA bond rating of metro by the financial rating agency.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed what final adjustments would be made to budget. The MERC commission food will bring an amended to the operating fund. The councilors discussed the cost of removing the derelict barge from the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp. Insurance would cover damage but will not cover the cost of removing of the barge. The council discussed how Metro had such good bond rating. Councilors discussed how garbage use would affect financial assumptions.

5. DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION OF FINAL CEMETERIES REPORT

Mr. Tim Collier of Metro introduced Mr. Paul Elvig of Bellevue and funeral industry expert. Metro requested Mr. Elvig review and advise Metro if the new interment verification and cemetery soil management practices are best management practices in the industry. Mr. Elvig stated he was impressed with the practices of Metro and that he would be writing an article in trade publications on some of the innovative practices that Metro does. He found Metro's overall practices to be above industry standards however he provided a number of points for improvement. He suggested that Metro; create a central office in the Metro Regional Center for better coordination and for better public communication, consider having each cemetery presently accepting burials be surveyed and "pinned", investigate the possibility of having its own opening and closing crew, a crew that could also be used for light cemetery maintenance during scheduled burial services.

Council Discussion:

Councilors asked if it would be prudent to use a higher tech system for grave location. Mr. Elvig stated that that if it was affordable high tech systems would be good. Councilors discussed the difference of contractors and hired opening and closing staff. Hired staff would give Metro more direct control of their operations.

Council Discussion:

6. COUNCILOR BRIEFING/COMMUNICATIONS

- Councilor Craddick introduced Liaison framework and communication between the Metro Council and the Intertwine Alliance. The framework develops two types of liaisons, project

liaison and a partners liaison. Committee members suggested that the document clarify the rolls about communications between the Intertwine and Metro staff.

- Councilor Harrington discussed the memo on mattress recycling which provided a list of recommendations. The council stated they would like to see legislation.
- Councilor Burkholder updated the council on the Regional Transportation Plan. The Executive council is looking to build business support.
- Councilor Craddick provided an update on Troutdale's Title 13 Hearing. The situation has improved; one City councilor even thanked Metro for working with Troutdale staff. The council stated the situation was a good outcome, much better than three months ago.
- President Hughes provided an update on the Community Investment Initiative (CII). At a recent Mayor and Chairs, meeting Local mayors were supportive of the concepts and had suggestions. The Strategic Plan will be completed on June 7. The Strategic Leadership Team had a productive meeting where the team discussed the structure of the investment entity. Council members expressed concern with communication between CII and the council.
- Councilor Collette provided a recap of the Full Funding Agreement event for the Portland-Milwaukee Light rail project. People who attended the event have worked on the project for 30 years. There were some protest but there were many more in support of the rail.

ADJURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:24 p.m.

Prepared by,



Marcus Week
Council Office Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 22, 2012

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	PPT	5/22/12	Climate Smart Communities and Envision Tomorrow	52212cw-01
6.0	Memo	5/8/12	Liaison framework and communication Intertwine	52212c w-02