



METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Summary

Nov. 1, 2012

Metro, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Carl Hosticka

Council President Tom Hughes convened the regular council meeting at 2:30 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

There were none.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

3. ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS AWARD PRESENTATION

Ms. Kim Smith of the Oregon Zoo stated that the Zoo was recently awarded three awards from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Oregon Zoo received the North American Conservation Award for the Oregon Spotted Frog program, the Significant Achievement Award for the Silver Spotted Butterfly program, and the Green Award for Zoo's sustainability efforts. Ms. Smith provided a short presentation and shared videos about the Zoo's Spotted Frog and Spotted Butterfly programs, and sustainability projects currently underway at the Zoo. (Presentation included as part of the meeting record.)

Mr. Jim Maddy of the AZA presented the Council with the awards. He stated that it was unprecedented to have one organization garner three AZA awards in a single year. Award recipients are selected by a jury of their peers. The AZA has 225 members in North America.

Councilors thanked Mr. Maddy for traveling to Portland to present the awards. Councilors expressed their excitement for the awards – especially those recognizing the zoo for its conservation work. Additional discussion included how the Zoo's work neatly fits with Metro's other missions (e.g. land use), and Washington state's Spotted Frog program for inmates.

4. OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR: FY 11-12 ANNUAL REPORT

Council President Hughes stated that Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn requested that the FY 11-12 Annual Report be rescheduled to a later date.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES FOR OCT. 18, 2012

Motion:	Councilor Carlotta Collette moved to approve the October 18, 2012 council summary.
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Vote:	Council President Hughes and Councilors Roberts, Craddick, Burkholder, Collette and Harrington voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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6. ORDINANCES – SECOND READ

6.1 Ordinance No. 12-1293, For the Purpose of Amending the FY 2012-13 Budget and Appropriations Schedule for Creation of an Agency Equity Strategy.

Motion:	Councilor Kathryn Harrington moved to approve Ordinance No. 12-1293.
Second:	Councilor Collette seconded the motion.

Councilor Harrington introduced Ordinance No. 12-1293. Councilor Harrington stated that Metro works with communities, businesses and local residents to create a vibrant and sustainable region for all. She stated that bringing equity into the forefront of Metro work would help to secure the region’s future by creating a place where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and succeed. Two years ago the Metro Council adopted equity as one of the region’s six desired outcomes and subsequently directed staff to initiate the development of an organizing framework that consistently incorporated equity into all Metro decisions. Councilor Harrington stated that Metro has already undertaken efforts to advance equity across the agency, however in absence of an organizing framework or strategic direction, the agency has faced a number of challenges and limitations in this area.

The ordinance, if approved, would allocate the needed resources to initiate a strategy development process. The request would fund a work program to initiate Step 1 of the Equity Strategy. Councilor Harrington emphasized that for the effort to be successful Metro must build and strengthen authentic partnerships and long-term working relationships. She stated that the proposal has intentionally not defined the details of the work plan because Metro would like to ensure partnership in the creation of the development process. A framework for what Metro would like to do was created based on input received from partners, but Metro has not defined the process of how to get there. She stated that Metro needs to change and advance its current approach to better reflect the needs of all communities.

Councilor Harrington welcomed Ms. Nuin-Tara Key for staff’s presentation. Ms. Key stated that the proposal for Council consideration was to launch an engagement process to define an agency-specific strategy for advancing equity within the context of Metro’s roles and responsibilities. Ms. Key provided a brief overview of the proposal and immediate steps for Council consideration. The budget amendment, \$300,000, would fund \$200,000 for staff support and \$100,000 for materials and services.

Council President Hughes opened a public hearing on Ordinance No. 12-1293:

- Tara Sulzen, 1000 Friends of Oregon: Ms. Sulzen expressed 1000 Friends support for the ordinance and advocated for Metro to adopt a comprehensive strategy, and to broaden and diversify its engagement. She stated that 1000 Friends was encouraged by Metro’s direction

and recommended the Council to look at how the \$100,000 for materials and services would be spent. She emphasized the time and capacity it takes to serve on committees and hoped the budget amendment would help build capacity within community organizations (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)

- Julia Meier, Coalition of Communities of Color: Ms. Meier expressed CCC's support for ordinance and stated that committing to a long-term development and implementation of an agency-wide strategy would get the region where it needs to be as a community. She stated that the region's demographics are rapidly changing primarily through an increase in the number of people of color, immigrants, and refugees. She call attention to four specific areas of the proposal:
 1. She emphasized the importance of developing the strategy in partnership with racial, social and environmental justice organizations. She was concerned that while she assume the \$100,000 materials and services budget included contracted dollars for these types of organizations, it was not explicitly mentioned in the proposal. She also recommended the budget amendment be increased to \$400,000 with the additional monies allocated for technical assistance contracts with these organizations.
 2. She encouraged Metro to be more explicit about the role of Title VI and its integration into the strategy. She stated that Title VI was an essential component of a jurisdictional equity strategy, however it was not sufficient in of itself and would not get the region to regional equity.
 3. Ms. Meier supported the project being housed in the Office of the Chief Operating Officer and recommended the new position be a direct report to the COO.
 4. Lastly, Ms. Meier emphasized the need to ensure Metro's equity work is long term. She encouraged the Council to publically commit that Metro is in it for the long term and stated that the goal was to make equity constitutional across the agency.
- Irene Schwoeffermann, Coalition for a Livable Future: Ms. Schwoeffermann expressed CLF's support for the ordinance and stated that proposal was a step in the right direction. She stated that CLF especially applauded the proposal's emphasis on building internal understanding and capacity and strengthening relationships with community members. She requested two additional items be considered in the final proposal: (1) a \$100,000 increase in the budget dedicated to technical assistance from racial, social and environmental justice organizations; and (2) specific language expressing Title VI as a baseline from which the Metro equity standards plan to move beyond. (Written testimony included as part of the meeting record.)
- Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland: Ms. Purcell was in support of the ordinance. She emphasized that equity must be addressed in a coordinated, intentional and effective way that would be felt in measureable outcomes and improve the quality of life for all. She stated that the Urban League was a member on the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consortium grant application and emphasized the need to do better. She reiterated that Metro needs to use its tools, like Title VI, more effectively and work with the right staffing and expertise. She also encouraged the Council to allocate additional funding to ensure organizations have the capacity to contribute to Metro's equity strategy.

- Kayse Jama, Center for Intercultural Organizing: Mr. Jama was in support of the ordinance. He stated that the region is changing and emphasized the importance of ensuring the livability condition of all residents is equitable for years to come. He stated that equity, racial justice, etc. can be uncomfortable discuss, but that Metro needs to talk explicitly about these issues and develop a strong strategy that can be implemented. He was in support of allocating an additional \$100,000 to engage racial, ethnic and community members. He also stated that in order to meet Title VI's minimum baseline Metro must complete a needs assessment.
- Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO: Mr. Lyons was in support of the ordinance and stated that Metro has an opportunity to do better than the minimum Title VI requirements and to develop a more comprehensive and robust needs assessment. He stated that accurate demographic data, that can be analyzed, is needed. He stressed the importance of meaningful, early and often engagement with community and partner organizations. Mr. Lyons stated that language and culture can bring Asian Pacific Islanders together, but can also cause segregation. He stated that there are currently 212,000 Asian Pacific Islanders in Oregon and emphasized the community's continued growth. He stressed the importance of building strategies that affirm equity. Mr. Lyons was also in support of having the equity strategy housed in the Office of the COO and having the staff person report directly to the COO.
- Heidi Guenin, Upstream Public Health: Ms. Guenin – a citizen member of the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee – expressed her support for the ordinance and echoed the comments from the other testifiers. She stated that Upstream Public Health was one of many organizations that sent a letter to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) calling for equity to be included as a criterion when evaluating the allocation of Regional Flexible Fund monies. She also highlighted the phrase “racial, social and environmental justice organizations” used by the other testifiers. She encouraged Metro to include these communities when discussing contracts to bring in expertise in for the equity strategy.

Seeing no additional citizens who wished to testify, the public hearing was closed.

Council thanked testifiers for their comments and stressed that this proposal would be impossible without their partnership and participation. Councilors emphasized that the proposal should help inform Metro business and be integrated into all Metro functions. Councilors acknowledged the additional \$100,000 request but were not ready to allocate additional funding; stating that the amount needed may be more or less than the proposed amount. Councilors emphasized the importance of a transparent process and that additional time may be needed to identify other communities (e.g. minority communities in outer Multnomah County or Washington County) who should have an equal opportunity to participate in the contracts. Additionally, Councilors noted that the \$300,000 was to be used within the current fiscal year which closes June 30, and that FY 2013-14 budget discussions would begin soon. Additional discussion included Metro's Diversity Action Plan scheduled for Council consideration in mid November.

Vote:

Council President Hughes and Councilors Roberts, Craddick, Burkholder, Collette and Harrington voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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7. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Martha Bennett provided an update on the following:

- Metro is still waiting to receive the Hearing Officer's report on the City of Lake Oswego's major urban growth boundary amendment application. Consequently, staff has decided to reschedule the Council's Nov. 6 work session item on the UGB major amendment process until Metro receives the report.
- Ms. Bennett and Metro staff provided a presentation on the natural areas levy proposal at the Washington County's city managers and special districts meeting. Staff is scheduled to provide the same presentation to Clackamas County managers on Nov. 5, and is in the process of scheduling a presentation in Multnomah County.
- Ms. Bennett attended Executive Session of the Public Employers Diversity Conference which focused on Multnomah County's equity and empowerment lens. She recommended a brown bag be scheduled on this topic.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor updates included recent Westside Trail open houses and Community Investment Initiative Regional Investment Enterprise meeting. Highlighted upcoming events included Nov. 7 Regional Mayors meeting.

Additional updates included the Oregon Convention Center hotel developers and union groups have reached agreement on a labor peace agreement.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 4:15 p.m. Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Metro Council Chamber.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelsey Newell, Regional Engagement and Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOV. 1, 2012

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
3.0	PowerPoint	N/A	Oregon Zoo Awards	110112c-01
5.0	Minutes	10/18/12	Council summary for Oct. 18, 2012	110112c-02
6.1	Testimony	11/1/12	Written testimony submitted by Tara Sulzen	110112c-03
6.1	Testimony	11/1/12	Written testimony submitted by Irene Schwoeffermann	110112c-04