



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY**

Nov. 26, 2013
Metro, Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Shirley Craddick, Kathryn Harrington, Bob Stacey, Carlotta Collette and Craig Dirksen

Councilors Excused: Councilor Sam Chase

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett updated the Council on the following items:

- Ms. Bennett provided Councilors with an outline of upcoming projects and schedules as reviewed at the Nov. 14, 2013 Council Retreat.
- Mr. Bill Doran is retiring from Oxbow Regional Park on Friday, November 29, 2013.
- Metro's agency-wide participation in the Charitable Giving is at 24 percent. This year's participation goal is 25 percent.
- Metro Regional Center will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 through Friday, Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday. Ms. Bennett reminded attendees to thank those agency employees who are scheduled to work Friday, Nov. 28.

2. THE INTERTWINE ALLIANCE INITIATIVES UPDATE

Councilor Craddick introduced Mr. Jim Desmond and Mr. Mike Wetter from the Intertwine Alliance. The alliance was created out of the Metro Council's call for regional community leaders to create and develop a world-class system of parks, trails and natural areas. The alliance itself communicates, advocates, and realizes this world-class system. The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of private, public, and nonprofit organizations working for parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. Mr. Wetter updated the Council on the current Intertwine Alliance initiatives: the Our Common Ground Campaign, the Intertwine Leadership Challenge, Common Ground Dialogues, and the Regional Conservation Strategy (RCS).

Mr. Wetter explained The Our Common Ground (OCG) Campaign as a collaborative effort to recognize regional diversity with shared appreciation for natural areas. The alliance is partnering to make a short video series in which four animals, representing different backgrounds, will meet at The Common Ground coffeehouse to negotiate compromises.

Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter gave a presentation on the Regional Conservation Strategy (RCS). The RCS is fundamentally a collection of information about places, plants, animals and what's necessary to conserve them. The purpose of the RCS is to synthesize existing information with an improved land cover map that allows viewing of high value habitat.

Mr. Wetter shared the main questions that the alliance faces, such as how do we improve the experience of our users and how do we raise awareness around the system?

The challenges that the alliance now faces include:

1. Capacity versus expectation—the alliance is a small organization working to move an agenda along fast enough to satisfy supporters and users.
2. Constrained funding options—the organization does not accept funding from individual donors or certain grant-funding sources that could affect partners' grants.
3. Establishing new ways of doing things—it takes time to make big changes
4. Controlling their brand

Mr. Wetter said that while Metro's funding contribution has decreased, the coalition contributions have increased. The Alliance is closing funding gaps through grants.

The Intertwine Alliance staff highlighted that the alliance is a platform for leadership partners that provides leverage to communities through coordinated effort. It serves as an example of a new way to accomplish projects with more ownership and at a lower cost.

Council Discussion:

- Councilors expressed appreciation to The Intertwine Alliance for its accomplishments and success since its establishment.
- Councilors were interested in how the needs of wildlife for animal habitat and the need for people's access to recreation are balanced. Staff explained that the partnerships work to align investment and projects.
- Councilor Harrington expressed a desire for more case studies to share with council districts that show how this collective effort has been effective.
- Councilors expressed concern about planning for core costs.
- Councilors were interested in the Alliance's plan for establishing a unified system of Intertwine signs along all trails in the region. Staff explained that Metro has required the Intertwine trail signs to be used on all trails receiving Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) funding, but the Federal Highway Administration has called for signs to meet the manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices because trails are a right-of-way. Councilors stated that they would like to assist the Alliance, and hopefully Congressman Blumenauer, in addressing the obstacles.
- Councilors requested that The Intertwine Alliance continue to provide updates to the Council and invite Councilors to events and meetings.
- Councilors suggested that the Alliance provide handouts to distribute to City Councils, Mayor Offices, and economic alliances.

3. BREAK

Metro Council recessed for a short break.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION EXCISE TAX RENEWAL

Ms. Martha Bennett introduced the discussion on a potential Construction Excise Tax (CET) extension. Metro established a CET in 2006 to provide funding to plan expansion areas brought into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The tax was extended in 2009 for an additional five year period, thus extending the CET sunset to September 2014. Provided the tax rate does not increase, existing CETs are exempt from the 2007 Oregon Legislature Senate Bill 1036 which prohibits establishment of new CETs until 2018. A CET renewal would have to be adopted by the Metro Council in June 2014, 90 days prior to the September 2014 expiration.

The purpose of staff's presentation was to outline for Council the direction for discussion on whether or not to extend the CET and if so, what the schedule would be for the renewal process. The early phases begin with the CET performance assessment, which asks the question: has the grant program to date met the objectives established for it by the Council? Mr. John Williams of Metro explained that this is a complex question since all three cycles were different and therefore must be evaluated individually for objectives, outcomes, and what contributed to progress or a lack of progress. Staff is hoping that the consulting firm Eco Northwest will finish the performance assessment by spring 2014.

Due to timeline limitations for renewal, staff proposed that the renewal process would move forward, such as revising the stakeholder committee list, in case the Council does decide to extend the CET in 2014.

Council Discussion:

- Councilors asked for the performance assessment to consider the following: what would have happened, or not happened, had CET funds not been available to local jurisdiction, whether the costs and benefits of the CET program have been equitably distributed geographically, and investigation into barriers to utilizing funds.
- Councilors commented on the policies in place for land entering the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and also taking into account stage-development that looks at long and short term uses.
- Councilor Stacey proposed the question whether discussions should be more on how to improve rather than should the program continue. He said that the most effective grant projects will be the ones that generate the most jobs and housing on the ground.
- Councilors stated that a space for dynamics of opposition to play out should be allowed and expressed a desire to know if the program is perceived as valuable, and if it has political support.
- Councilors expressed that it is important to figure out what Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)'s role is and how to best engage the committee. Councilors proposed taking also the performance assessment to MPAC in the spring, but also engaging them sooner.
- In regards to the stakeholder committee roster, Councilors asked what the development community's opinion is and their potential role as a supportive partner. Councilors asked

Staff to review members' attendance in 2012 to ensure that re-appointed stakeholders would have strong attendance.

- Councilors asked for stakeholders to include: a social equity perspective to represent historically neglected communities, an advocate for an urban footprint model, more homebuilders at the edge, a Washington County board member, other cities with vested interest. Councilors asked if all committee members have been recipients of grants and if staff wants a member who hasn't.
- Councilors requested clarification of the scope of the committee. Staff stated that this is also under review looking at the potential members. Councilors were interested in the stakeholder committee's potential to provide insight into areas left uncovered after the audit assesses how effectively grants were used.

5. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATION

Ms. Alison Kean of Metro updated the Council on the work of the Office of Metro Attorney.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Schmidt, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOV. 26, 2013

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	12/5/13	Council Agenda for Dec. 5, 2013	112613cw-01
1.0	Handout	11/14/13	Proposed Phasing of Council Initiatives Schedule	112613cw-02
2.0	PowerPoint	11/26/13	The Intertwine Alliance Presentation	112613cw-03
2.0	PowerPoint	11/26/13	Regional Conservation Strategy Presentation	112613cw-04
2.0	Handout	11/26/13	Intertwine Adventures Packet	112613cw-05
2.0	Handout	11/26/13	Intertwine Our Common Ground Brochure	112613cw-06
4.0	Handout	11/26/13	Planning and Development Grants Packet	112613cw-07