



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Summary

March 13, 2014

Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett introduced Pietro Ferrari, Program Manager for the Metro Equity Strategy Program and Carl Talton, Chair of the Equity Strategy Advisory Committee. Ms. Bennett provided some historical context of Metro's efforts on equity as one of the six desired regional outcomes. Mr. Ferrari and Mr. Talton reviewed the program goals and timeline with Council, including the status of the work plan, the progress made and the next steps.

Mr. Ferrari presented four elements to Council outlining the Equity Strategy program goals:

1. Establish an evidence based decision making process with communities most impacted.
2. Build internal/ external capacity to understand Metro's role.
3. Identify institutional barriers.
4. Define and implement strategy.

Highlights included:

- Completion of Phase 1: the Equity Inventory Report, including recommendations for improvement.
- Phase 2: Strategy Definition is progressing. Updates include staff transitions, additions and support were reviewed with Council. A brief review of the workload was presented through the efforts of the Equity Advisory Committee and the Equity Baseline Workgroup.
- Interim coordination and assistance to existing Metro initiatives are being considered as a part of the Equity Strategy.

Council Discussion:

Metro Councilors asked clarifying questions about the wording in the draft equity definition.

Mr. Ferrari responded in regards to the struggle the work group went through in balancing the needs with the desired outcomes, acknowledged that there may be a need to clarify language in relationship to the environment.

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Robinson commented that there will always be associated packaging with the wording. He referred to the tasks ahead as the next level of work in unpacking such terminology with the intent of achieving the desired regional outcomes.

Mr. Talton responded that the burden language could be conceived as negative and considered giving the wording a second look.

Mr. Robinson explained that different communities use different lenses and emphasized utilizing language that is inclusive to the different sides of this issue. Mr. Robinson suggested the next step as considering what Metro's leverage is in pursuing equity for the region.

Councilor Sam Chase commented in appreciation of the level of work, considering the challenges involved. He expressed satisfaction with the language, yet he acknowledged where the obstacles lie are ahead. He supports the equity definition with or without added changes.

Councilor Bob Stacey mentioned the need to be mindful of the way others will react in regards to the use of adjectives. He asked questions as to whether the work on the indicators can bridge the concerns.

Councilors discussed MPAC and provided general feedback to the Equity Strategy in preparation for presenting at MPAC on April 23rd.

Metro Director of Communications Jim Middaugh distributed a revised draft letter to Council to the NW Examiner that covers elephant's issues at the zoo.

Councilors provided comments in regards to the letter and expressed concern as to whether it is appropriate to respond, and directed staff not to send the draft.

Council acknowledged that it is likely that there will be future correspondence in relation to this topic. Council members requested hard copies and digital links to the article for future reference.

2. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Rojas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Jessica Rojas, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2014

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Handout	3/13/14	Equity Strategy Program Update and Draft Definition	31314cw-01
1.0	Handout	N/A	Draft Letter to NW Examiner	31314cw-02