



## **METRO COUNCIL MEETING**

Meeting Summary

March 20, 2014

Metro, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Craddick

Council President Hughes noted a quorum was present and called the regular council meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were none.

### **2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Les Poole, Gladstone:

Mr. Poole addressed the need to improve citizen outreach due to controversy in Clackamas County with community planning organizations and hamlets. There is uncertainty about who administers and who is eligible to vote. Mr. Poole also inquired about a grant for Trolley Bridge and stressed importance of the opportunity to connect to trails and downtown Oregon City. Councilor Collette noted that the grant money is still available due to its use for solving transportation related problems, not a specific bridge. Councilor Collette also noted process and other potential uses for grant money.

John Miller, Portland:

Mr. Miller identified himself as the executive director of Oregon Opportunity Network and the role of Oregon Opportunity Network as a consortium of statewide associations for housing and community development nonprofits, housing authorities, and community action agencies. He highlighted a letter sent to Metro Council urging Metro to take up affordable workforce housing as a regional issue. Mr. Miller identified some of the key points including:

- Need for access to safe and affordable housing
- Range of housing choices relationship to stable workforce and healthy communities
- Veterans, people of color, seniors, and people with disabilities being underserved by the private market

Council Member Stacey commented on his agreement with the points raised in the letter and his support for an affordable housing strategies agenda.

Matt Ellison, Portland:

Mr. Ellison noted upcoming Metro budget preparation and advocated for temporary zoo employees. He asked the Council to recognize temporary zoo employees are professionals and provide good work. Mr. Ellison also noted staffing levels differ depending on weather conditions and attendance which impact temporary employees' family budgets. He also commented on opportunities to keep temporary employees employed by being creative in developing work programs, such as computer data entry.

**3. OREGON ZOO BOND PROGRAM UPDATE**

Council President Hughes called on Zoo Bond Program Director Heidi Rahn and Education Curator Grant Spickelmier to provide an overview of where the zoo is at on implementing associated projects. The projects are related to voter approval of the bond to protect animal health and safety by improving enclosures and replacing the outdated medical facility.

Ms. Rahn and Mr. Spickelmier showed the Council a PowerPoint depicting the work done to date and/or are currently in process. Highlights include:

- Master Planning process including project budgets
- Minimizing impacts on the animals
- 20 Year Vision
- Providing quality animal habitat
- Opportunities for conservation
- Reflection of Metro and zoo ethics in planning process
- Innovative animal habit
- Sensitivity to animal needs
- Sustainability
- Guest satisfaction
- Goal to hire more women and minority owned businesses
- Budget accountability
- Water use and harvesting rain water
- Penguin pools
- On-site condor exhibit
- Expansion and improvement of elephant habitat
- Energy delivery system
- Rerouting the zoo train to provide a better zoo light experience
- Education center improvements including increased access to conservation classes, provide more space for summer camp classes, and more hands on learning experiences
- Improvement of polar bear exhibits and polar bear education
- Primate habitat and education
- Hippo habitat improvements
- Expansion of the rhinoceros habitat
- Revenue opportunities as part of an overall zoo business plan
- Zoo Education Center as a regional catalyst for conservation action
- Increasing public informational resources

Council President Hughes called on the Metro Councilors for comments or questions. Councilor Harrington expressed her appreciation for both the comprehensive information provided and work completed and underway. She noted the magnitude of the elephant exhibit and associated land issues and impact on zoo visitors. Councilor Harrington commented on the presence of math in much of the animal exhibit work and the opportunity to incorporate math into children's educational opportunities. Both Council members Harrington and Collette commented on the importance of website access to information and cited the public's access to the Oversight Committee's Report as an example. Councilor Collette also noted her appreciation for the work done to date and the potential use of electronic barcodes for public access to information.

Councilor Stacey also noted his appreciation and inquired about management recommendations and management response to the committee work. He cited delays due to permitting and asked if there is an opportunity for peer to peer or elected official to elected official communication to assist in the process. Councilor Chase also noted his appreciation and his support for the oversight committee's work. He commented on the importance of equity in the zoo's work, the zoo's role in the local economy and the jobs it provides, and how bond money is spent or utilized.

#### **4. ZOO BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Council President Hughes introduced Deidra Krys-Rusoff, chair of the Zoo Bond Citizens Oversight Committee, to provide an overview of the committee's work since it was appointed in January 2010. Ms. Krys-Rusoff noted the committee's work primarily consists of overseeing the investment in animal exhibits, educational facilities, and sustainability measures funded by the \$125 million bond program. She outlined the committee's composition and charge to determine if the zoo bond program is efficient and on the right path.

Ms. Krys-Rusoff focused primarily on the committee's findings and recommendations including:

- Clear organizational and governance structure
- No specific project modifications at this time
- Need for certainty related to building permits
- Continued oversight of parking management and transportation planning
- Support for alternative contracting methods
- Continued support for use of alternative procurement options to attract and retain minority and women owned businesses
- Need for continued outreach
- Planning phase connection to the overall bond project schedule to assess resource capacity and timelines
- Budget and cost monitoring
- Auditors report findings

Councilor Stacey commented on the committee's recommendation about ensuring adequate oversight for transportation and parking management. Councilor Harrington inquired about the oversight committee's thoughts on if its recommendations having been heard and

adequately considered. Ms. Krys-Rusoff assured the Council that the oversight committee's work has been recognized and its recommendations addressed. Councilor Harrington noted her interest in the on-staff Metro reporter to develop a few news pieces for publication. Councilor Dirksen commented on the fact that even with the expansion of habitat, the operating costs for the zoo after completion will not increase. Council President Hughes closed by thanking Ms. Krys-Rusoff for her and the committee's hard work and public service.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 13, 2014**

**Council President Hughes called for a motion to approve the March 13 Council minutes. Councilor Collette moved. Chorus of seconds. Motion carries. Minutes are approved, passed 6-0-0.**

6. **RESOLUTIONS**

6.1 **Resolution No. 14-4508**, For the Purpose of Adopting the District Revitalization Work Plan to Spur Investment in Downtowns and Main Street Districts.

Resolution No. 14-4508 is read into the record by title. Council President Hughes asks for a motion and second. Councilor Dirksen moved Resolution No. 14-4508. Councilor Stacey second.

Council President Hughes called on Metro staff Lisa Miles to present. Ms. Miles provided an overview of the program and asked Council to move forward and formally make the program permanent. Ms. Miles described three key elements of the program as:

- Storefront improvement grant
- District transformation grants
- Improving access to capital by partnering with financial institutions

Councilor Collette noted her support for the program and inquired about the "qualified community development financial institution." Staff clarified the term "qualified community development financial institution" is a federal term used to indicate a financial institution has received certification and is eligible to make certain types of investments. Ms. Miles noted local institutions such as Mercy Corps, Albina Opportunities Corporation, and Portland Family Funds as examples of such financial institutions. Councilor Harrington noted her support for the program and its value to the region. She outlined the work involved to reach this point and appreciation for everyone and everything that went into the work. Councilor Stacey commented about his work with neighborhood associations in his district and how the pilot programs were received and the benefits a permanent program will provide. Councilor Dirksen linked the new program objectives to Metro's land use vision and its inclusion of placing importance on downtowns and town centers. Council

President Hughes noted how problematic it is to rebuild downtown or town centers and hopefully this new program will alleviate complications.

**Council President Hughes asked for roll call. All councilors present voted yes and the motion carried unanimously, passed 6-0-0.**

- 6.2 Resolution No. 14-4509**, For the Purpose of Authorizing Metro to Apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant From the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Development at Oxbow Regional Park and Recognizing the Authority of the Sustainability Director to Sign the Application.

**Resolution No. 14-4509 is read into the record by title. Council President Hughes asks for a motion and second. Councilor Dirksen moved Resolution No. 14-4509. Councilor Stacey second.**

Council President Hughes called on Metro staff Rod Wojtanik to present. Mr. Wojtanik introduced himself as the assigned landscape architect in the Sustainability Center and outlined how the Sustainability Center plans to improve Oxbow Park. He noted background points and highlighted the Sustainability Center's request to apply for an Oregon State Parks grant. Mr. Wojtanik stated the focus of improvements to Oxbow Park is nature-based play, the goal being to reconnect kids with nature or to address what has been termed "nature deficit disorder" through nature play.

Council President Hughes called for questions and comments from the Metro councilors. Councilor Collette commented that she thought the idea of nature play was brilliant and inquired if there is an avenue for kids to be on an advisory or design committee. Mr. Wojtanik replied that the Sustainability Center is looking into ways to involve more kids. Council and Mr. Wojtanik discussed grant money opportunities and other funding sources. All councilors voiced enthusiasm and support for the project.

**Council President Hughes asked for further discussion. Seeing none, Council President asked for a motion and second. Councilor Dirksen moved Resolution No. 14-4509. Councilor Stacey second. Council President Hughes asked for roll call. All councilors present voted yes and the motion carried unanimously, passed 6-0-0.**

**7. ORDINANCES – FIRST READ**

- 7.1. Ordinance No. 14-1326**, Amending the FY 2013-14 Budget and Appropriations Schedule and the FY 2013-14 through 2017-18 Capital Improvement Plan.

Ordinance No. 14-1326 is read into the record by title. Council President Hughes noted the Metro Council will consider and vote on April 3.

**8. ORDINANCES – SECOND READ**

**8.1 Ordinance No. 14-1324, For the Purpose of Adopting Solid Waste Charges and User Fees for FY 2014-15.**

Ordinance No. 14-1324 is read into the record by title. Council President Hughes invited Metro staff Brian Kennedy, assistant finance director, to provide a brief report. Mr. Kennedy stated Ordinance No. 14-1324 is the first ordinance to adopt the new rates approved by Ordinance No. 14-1323. He noted the change from prior year processes and the adoption of the Ordinance No. 14-1324 makes the rates effective July 1. Mr. Kennedy explained rates are based on the proposed budget, not the adopted budget as has been done in the past. He provided a brief history of the program and highlighted various aspects of the process including relationship to increase in collection of solid waste and corresponding fees.

Council President Hughes asked for questions from the Council. Councilor Chase expressed his appreciation for some rate relief.

**8.1.1 PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 14-1324**

Council President Hughes opened a public hearing and asked for public testimony. Seeing none, Council President Hughes closed the public hearing and asked for a motion. Councilor Dirksen moved the ordinance. Councilor Stacey seconded.

**Council President Hughes asked for Council discussion. Seeing none, he called for a vote. Motion carried unanimously, passed 6-0-0.**

**9. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Martha Bennett noted a couple of housekeeping items including spring break starts Monday, March 24 and that she will be out of town. Ms. Bennett informed the Council that Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Robinson will also be out and Terri Dresler will be acting Pro Tem. Ms. Bennett noted that both Council work session and Council meeting are cancelled due to the spring break recess. She also expressed her appreciation for the recent Employee Service Luncheon and noted a couple of miscellaneous items.

**10. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: Councilor Dirksen noted that Councilor Collette and he attended the March 20 meeting of the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting in Salem. Councilor Collette commented on a discussion pertaining to Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) and compared it to the issues associated with Clackamas County's interest in an ACT.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. The Metro Council will convene in next regular council meeting on Thursday, April 3 at 2 p.m. at Metro's Council Chamber.

**SUPPLEMENTAL HANDOUTS** (additional information distributed):

- Citizen Communication, on Housing Opportunity, March 20, 2014 – John Miller
- Handout, Zoo Bond Project Timeline
- Handout, Council Minutes for Mar. 13, 2014, Mar. 13, 2014
- Handout, Preliminary Assessment of Eligible Areas for District Revitalization Program