



METRO COUNCIL RETREAT

Meeting Summary

Feb. 6, 2014

Metro Council Chambers

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

Councilors Excused: Council President Tom Hughes

Staff Present: Martha Bennett, Scott Robinson, Ina Zucker, Colin Deverell, Nikolai Ursin, Amy Croover, Beth Cohen, and Tim Collier

Councilor Sam Chase convened the retreat at 2:15 p.m.

1. RETREAT OBJECTIVE

Ms. Martha Bennett provided an overview of the agenda and stated that the purpose of the Feb. 6 council retreat was for the Metro Council to provide direction on major budget assumptions and council initiatives.

2. FINANCIAL FORECAST WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Tim Collier provided a brief summary overview of the FY 2013-14 adopted budget compared to the FY 2014-15 base budgets for the solid waste fund, the MERC fund, the general fund and special appropriations.

Council discussion

COUNCIL BUDGET QUESTION	STAFF RESPONSE
Is the MERC fund exempt from spending cap and will the MERC budget provide a breakout of the venues?	Mr. Collier indicated that that the MERC fund is exempt from spending cap and MERC budget will provide details for each venue.
The Five Year Forecast of General Fund Resources vs. Requirements through FY 2018-19 shows a gap in FY 2014-15. Council inquired about the anomaly.	Mr. Collier gave two reasons for the gap in FY 2014-15; the PERS rate went down in FY 2014-15, and we recalibrated where we are reapplying the reserve and contingency policies 7 % in total switched in operating expenditures and we were over funding the contingency.
Is the gap one time only spending money?	Ms. Bennett stated that it is our policy to use one-time revenue for funding one time budget requests.
There is a new request in FY 2014-15 Special Appropriation Budget for the Multnomah County Drainage District Special Assessment. If this request involves a Metro venue is the request in the MERC budget?	Ms. Bennett indicated that the request is in the MERC budget and the amount under the Special Appropriation Budget is the General Fund contribution. Mr. Collier will follow up to the question by placing a footnote on the appropriation.

3. BREAK

The Council recessed for a short break.

4. FY 2014-15 PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Ms. Bennett presented the Metro Council's initiatives that council agreed upon during the November 14, 2013, council retreat. The initiatives are based on short- and long-term timeframes, and the level of Metro Council attention, awareness or ownership that may be required in the next 18 months. Ms. Bennett included the FY 2014-15 current budget allocation request for each item and requested council direction and discussion on each item. (Council initiatives handout included as part of the meeting record.)

Council gave feedback on the following Council initiatives:

- Council will review the Climate Smart Communities work program and budget after the scenario is adopted.
- Council requested more information on the Regional Infrastructure Supporting our Economy (RISE) program.
- Council encouraged staff to leverage partnership opportunities with the 2015 State of Oregon Transportation Funding Package.
- Following the Council's decision on whether to renew the Construction Excise Tax, that renewal would need to be included in the FY 2014-15 budget.
- Although the 2014 RTP update was mostly complete in the FY 2013-14 budget, Council reminded staff not to forget about the 2018 RTP work and preceding policy work.
- Council asked that enough funding be allocated to the Urban Growth Report for external engagement and policy management.
- The Council will discuss Willamette Falls planning and additional appropriations in the summer of 2014. Council confirmed their interest in preserving access to the falls and agreed more conversation is needed.
- Council requested that funds for Transportation for America be indicated as part of the Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Legislation.
- Council requested more information on the citizen engagement strategy.
- Council agreed more dialogue is needed about the Equity Strategy Program. (Councilor Chase handout included as part of the meeting record.)

5. SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

The following items were identified as needing additional council discussion:

- Planning and Development Department staffing and MTIP/RFFA staffing
- Federal Agenda
- Communications
- Metro's Equity Strategy
- RISE presentation on brownfields and industrial lands

Ms. Bennett indicated the parking lot issues could be addressed in a work session retreat follow up.

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6. ADJOURN

Seeing no further discussion, Councilor Sam Chase adjourned the Council retreat at 4:26 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Croover".

Amy Croover, Council Policy Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEB. 6, 2014

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.	Handout	2/2014	Notes for budget discussion	20614c-02
4.	Handout	2/2014	Council Initiatives FY2014-15	20614c-01