

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

June 16, 1998

Brentwood Darlington Community Center

Councilors Present: Jon Kvistad (Presiding Officer), Ed Washington, Patricia McCaig

Presiding Officer Kvistad convened the Regular Council Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Presiding Officer Kvistad explained the process for appointing Councilors and went over the qualifications for being a member of the Metro Council. He introduced the Councilors present.

2. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING APPOINTMENT FOR A VACANCY IN METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT #6.

Jacqueline Dingfelder read her letter explaining why she wanted to serve on the Metro Council and described her skills and abilities. In summary she offered commitment, experience and a regional approach that produced results. (A copy of the letter may be found in the permanent record of this meeting).

Councilor McCaig asked Ms. Dingfelder if she intended to run for the seat if appointed (Ms. Dingfelder answered "yes"). She asked for some examples of what the Council could do to bridge the gap between themselves and the people they represent.

Jacqueline Dingfelder answered she had worked with people who dealt with government and she believed people had to realize and understand what their choices were.

Councilor McCaig asked her to comment about light rail.

Jacqueline Dingfelder answered she was very supportive of light rail and looked forward, when it was completed in her area, to using it instead of driving her car to her job.

Presiding Officer Kvistad said there would be time after all the candidates had spoken to ask questions of all of them.

Scott Pratt said he was seeking a seat because he believed in democracy and felt it was important to keep people involved in government. He felt the region's citizen participation was declining and he was very well qualified to help change that. He referred to his experience with the Oregon League of Conservation Voters whose primary mission was to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions by helping teach people to get involved. He talked about his involvement with the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association and what they had accomplished. He said Metro did a good job of citizen involvement but could do better. He felt he could help with bringing people into the process.

Councilor McCaig said the Metro Council was intended to be a part-time policy setting board. She asked Mr. Pratt if he felt more effort to bring more people into the decision making process would mean better or different decisions.

Scott Pratt thought it would be better but more importantly people would understand the choices they had to make and feel like they were a part of the choices.

Councilor McCaig asked how he would reallocate time and money to accomplish what he was saying he wanted to do as a Metro Councilor.

Scott Pratt said he would not necessarily have to give anything up because he had always put a lot of effort into his work. He felt he needed more knowledge about the inner workings of the Council to answer the money question. He said good citizen participation needed to happen at the local levels also.

Councilor McCaig commented that there was a climate simmering about citizen participation that allowed people to go into different settings and make those kinds of comments about participation which implied that there was something not happening with the government. She cautioned him the reality was that the resources were very limited and there was a huge job to do. The problems would not be solved just by increased citizen participation. She asked him about affordable housing, accessory units in particular.

Scott Pratt answered that he was concerned more about the details of bringing accessory units into the mix. He said they would need to continue to protect neighborhoods that were already built up. He said he had opposed particular regulations that were imposed regarding accessory units. He was concerned that developers might buy up what were now considered starter homes and use them for rentals and that would make affordable housing harder.

Rod Monroe introduced himself as a former Metro Councilor and holder of various elective offices over the last 20 years. He said Metro was the only elected regional government in the nation and was a grand experiment and he believed that the nation was watching to determine whether or not it would work to better the overall community. He believed that if the experiment was successful, the livability of the entire region would be enhanced for the future generations. He said the upcoming decisions of the council would be critical. He talked about the duties and responsibilities of Metro to the region. He felt Metro was a catalyst for bringing the partners together for change for a better region. He said his goal was to help Metro succeed.

Councilor McCaig said Metro's success was entirely dependent on voters supporting increased funding for this government. She talked about the increased responsibilities and expectations of Metro without the increased funds to do the work.

Rod Monroe answered that when he was chair of the Metro Council Finance Committee he had asked for a small tax on new construction to provide money for those kinds of things and had been defeated. He said ultimately Salem would have to opt in as a major partner. He hoped his experience and contacts in Salem would help him lobby on behalf of Metro for necessary transportation funding.

Dwight (D.W.) Owens said he had been involved in neighborhood livability issues for about 12 years. He talked about his involvement in the business and neighborhood communities throughout the Metro area. He felt he could bring a lot of skills and experience to the Council regarding growth issues. He felt citizen education was needed in that regard. He explained his experience.

Councilor McCaig asked him to comment about light rail.

D.W. Owens said if he could be guaranteed that the North South Light Rail would pull people out of cars he would support it but he did not have that guarantee at this time. He felt other options should be looked at before the decision for North South Light Rail.

Councilor McCaig asked him to comment on the upcoming November ballot item for the expansion of the Convention Center.

D. W. Owens said he felt it was needed to continue bolstering the tourist economy in Portland. He said he supported the expansion because a lot of convention business was being missed due to lack of space. He talked about the need for a convention center hotel.

Councilor McCaig asked for his comments about the best and worst things about Metro.

D. W. Owens said the best thing was getting 27 jurisdictions to sit down at a table to work toward solving local problems. The worst thing was the same thing, due to all the personalities involved.

Councilor Washington commented that growth issues were not the only thing Metro was involved with. He wanted to hear their comments about those other things.

Scott Pratt said he tended to put Openspaces and Parks in with land use planning in Growth Management when he spoke, but two other big things for him were solid waste disposal and regional entertainment facilities, i.e., the Convention Center, Zoo, stadium, Performing Arts Center, etc., were also important for vital economic growth and development. He mentioned the need for a convention center hotel. He agreed that Metro needed more funds to be effective.

Rod Monroe said Metro was involved in many other things, for example, what to do about the Civic Stadium, how the Performing Arts Center was going to be funded and kept open, solid waste management and encouraging increased recycling. He said if the decision was ever revisited regarding transportation of garbage, he would advocate moving it through the gorge by rail or barge rather than by truck as that caused excessive wear and tear on the roads. He talked about other funding sources that could be explored.

D.W. Owens agreed that other funding sources were needed. He said perhaps some consolidation was needed. He said he totally supported the expansion of the Convention Center to pick up additional revenue. He felt then the private sector might be interested in building a headquarters hotel. He supported the renovation of the Civic Stadium to possibly bring major league baseball to Portland.

Jackie Dingfelder mentioned water quality protection, parks management. She felt one of the most important functions of Metro was identifying properties for protection. She said she would like to see more funding for purchase of those properties. She thought there were other options to directly link Metro services to other things besides recycling and garbage collection. She felt there were other sources for broad base funding for Metro.

Presiding Officer Kvistad asked if any others present were interested in the job and wanted to speak. He said there was still another week to get their application in for the job.

Julie Cushing, 4241 NE Laurelhurst Place Portland OR 97213 supported Scott Pratt and urged his appointment. She explained her reasons and experience with him.

Tom Lipton, 2216 NE 50th Ave Portland OR 97213 supported Jackie Dingfelder's appointment. He felt she was knowledgeable and would work hard. He commented on the implementation of the 2040 plan and felt she had strong qualifications in those areas.

Jennifer Thompson, 11537 SE Grant St. Portland OR 97216 supported Jackie Dingfelder. She said she had worked with her on committees where she offered creative ideas and good leadership. She said Ms. Dingfelder had all the qualifications, interest and commitment to do a good job for the Council.

Leland Stapleton, 1411 NE 16th #312 Portland OR 97232 supported Scott Pratt. He said Scott should be considered because of his experience in neighborhood involvement issues.

Tanya Collier, former County Commissioner, supported Rod Monroe because of his qualifications for the job. She said she had worked with him for about 25 years. She said he had the experience to do a good job and had a history of involvement in working the issues. She urged his appointment.

Richard Craddick, David Douglas Schools, 1500 SE 130th Portland OR 97216 spoke in support of Rod Monroe acknowledging his work on the school board and as an educator.

Roberta Jortner, 1003 SE Spokane Portland OR 97202 supported Jackie Dingfelder and noted the work they had done together on other committees. She told of Ms. Dingfelder's skills and abilities and strengths as a team player with experience and diverse interests. She reported that Ms. Dingfelder was open minded and listened to others.

Beth Woodward, 6102 SW 46th Ave Portland OR 97221 supported Jackie Dingfelder. She said Ms. Dingfelder had the ability to connect with others and was concerned for other people's points of view.

Karen Frost Mecey, 5704 SE Liebe Portland OR 97207 supported Jackie Dingfelder for her broad knowledge of transportation issues.

Charles Adams 12070 SW Blakeney Beaverton OR 97008 supported Scott Pratt.

T.J. Browning, 3545 SE Ankeny Portland OR 97214 supported Scott Pratt. She said he had a knack for getting people to work together as he showed in a neighborhood association they were involved with together. She said he kept all the promises he made while on that committee and worked hard for everyone.

Called for **Mac Prichard** no one came forward

Andrew Linehan, 4359 NE Davis, Portland OR 97213 supported Jacqueline Dingfelder because of her background and technical knowledge.

Nancy Spieler, Tualatin River Watershed Council, 3530 16th Place, Forest Grove, OR 97116 supported Jacqueline Dingfelder's appointment. She said her attitude was proactive and she admired Ms. Dingfelder's ability to work with all kinds of people.

State Representative Frank Shields, 10932 SE Salmon St. Portland OR 97216 supported Rod Monroe because of his expertise and experience in the legislative process.

Susan Barthel, 216 SE 30th Ave Portland OR 97214 supported Jackie Dingfelder's appointment. She felt Ms. Dingfelder's experience was invaluable to the Council as well as her problem solving skills.

Called for **Elise Marshall**, 1220 SW 5th Ave Portland OR 97204 . No one came forward.

Barbara Ballew, 3303 NE 73rd Ave Portland OR 97213 supported Scott Pratt. She related her past experiences working with him and urged his appointment to the Council. She spoke of his sense of values and stewardship.

Karen Wagner 2724 SE 37th Portland OR 97202 supported Jackie Dingfelder and gave reasons including working and personal relationships with her. She felt Ms. Dingfelder would bring a lot of energy and talent to the body.

Bill Dickey, 6320 SW Evelyn Portland OR 97219 supported Scott Pratt. He related his experience and knowledge of Mr. Pratt and said he had always given him very good advice when needed as his attorney. He felt him to be a very good and capable choice for the council position.

Shirley Voelker, 1535 SW Clay St. #208 Portland OR 97201 supported Scott Pratt and agreed with Mr. Dickey's comments.

Chris Dearth, 7022 SW 33rd Portland OR 97219 supported Jackie Dingfelder. He related experience with her in many contexts and highlighted her dedication and energy.

Bob Roth, 525 Logus, Oregon City, OR 97045 supported Jackie Dingfelder. Mr. Roth urged her appointment because of her knowledge and abilities.

Les Morton (no address listed) supported Scott Pratt. He talked about the largeness of Metro and his view as a business person of the waste in the Metro budget. He said Mr. Pratt was from a business background and knew the importance of having more citizen involvement and awareness of the waste in budgeting. He felt Mr. Pratt could help Metro live within budget and broaden the base of democracy by more citizen involvement.

Councilor McCaig thanked Mr. Morton for his comments and said as Chair of the Budget Committee she looked forward to receiving a list of wastes in the budget.

Mr. Morton said he would send them to her.

Aleta Woodruff, 2143 NE 95th Place Portland OR 97220 supported Rod Monroe. She explained her history and affiliations with various neighborhood associations and Metro. She said she supported Mr. Monroe because she knew him from previous contact with Metro and knew he did and would do a good job for Metro. She said she thought all the candidates had a realization of the commitment the position would take and she chose to support Mr. Monroe because of his previous experience.

Ben Johnston 1969 SW Park Ave #814 Portland OR 97201, attorney at law, spoke in support of Scott Pratt because he felt strongly that Pratt's work was professional and caring. He wanted everyone to know of Mr. Pratt's work with disenfranchised folks and his pro bono work on their behalf.

Presiding Officer Kvistad closed the public hearing and asked the candidates for any closing remarks they wanted to make:

Rod Monroe said he had asked 3 people to speak for him tonight because he thought there was a limit on the number of folks who could speak. He thanked his friends for their support and the ones who spoke for him that he had not asked. He said he had the time and inclination to be a full time councilor even though it was part time pay.

D.W. Owens said he appreciated the time to speak in front of the Council and said he felt he had a lot of good skills to bring to the Council.

Jacqueline Dingfelder thanked her supporters and said she had asked them all to be brief. She summarized that she had proven skills and understanding of the commitment to do an excellent job.

Scott Pratt said Metro had a lot of challenges to deal with everyday but he thought the biggest challenge ahead would be fighting the ballot measure for their very existence. He felt public education regarding what Metro did and why it was important would help get the support needed to get a favorable vote.

Presiding Officer Kvistad reviewed the schedule for the selection process. He said the applications would be accepted until 5 PM on the June 24th, after which time interviews with Council would be set up. He said July 2nd was the target date for a decision. He said it would be a straight vote of the council and would take 4 votes to appoint. The next step would be to be sworn in right away. The term would be until the certification of the victor in the November election. He thanked the candidates for coming.

3. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Presiding Officer Kvistad adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council