

Council Retreat January 28, 2004

Attendees: David Bragdon, Rex Burkholder, Dan Cooper, Jim Desmond, Alexis Dow, Carl Hosticka, Michael Jordan, Susan McLain, Rod Monroe, Brian Newman, Rod Park, Kathy Rutkowski, Bill Stringer, Jeff Tucker, Mike Wetter

Minutes taken by Kim Bardes.

Excise Tax:

Discussion centered on whether Metro should institute an excise tax, how much they would institute the tax for, who would pay, and where the money would be spent. Jim Desmond from the parks department gave a presentation on a Parks work plan. While the councilors seemed to support continuing the current \$1 and increasing it, they were not certain whether to increase it by \$1 or \$2 for the first year. There was also debate on whether there should be another increase of \$1 in the following fiscal year. Discussion then turned to where the new revenue would go. There was general consensus that a good portion of it would go towards parks. Support among the councilors seemed strongest for Option 1 of the parks plan. The councilors wanted to get more detailed information from Andy Cotugno for Planning before they would agree to put funds towards planning. It was generally agreed that any money given to Metro Planning or the facilities (MERC/Zoo) would not be for increasing FTE but for projects that would benefit the agency or region as a whole.

It was decided that the Metro would continue the current \$1 excise tax and increase that to either \$2 or \$3 dollars for fiscal year 2004-2005 (the council asked for numbers from Finance/Parks to demonstrate what a \$1 increase would do versus what a \$2 increase would do). There would not be any shifting of funds for fiscal year 2004-2005. It was agreed that if they went forward with another increase of \$1 for fiscal year 2005-2006, there would be no shift of funds to the facilities unless it was demonstrated that there was accord for Metro policies.

Dan Cooper was asked to draw up two ordinances for the councilors' review that showed the continuation of the current \$1 excise tax and for version 1 to increase the tax by another dollar, and for version 2 to increase the tax by two dollars. Legislation would need to be passed late March or early April, so he would have to have the ordinances ready by the next Council Retreat, which was tentatively scheduled for February 25th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Bardes