

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 2004
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Susan McLain, Rod Park, Rod Monroe, Rex Burkholder, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:05 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004.

Council President Bragdon reviewed the September 9, 2004 Council agenda. He noted Don Trotter's update on Oregon Convention Center (OCC). Councilor Burkholder suggested an update on Portland Center for the Performing Act (PCPA) funding as well.

2. AMERICAN ZOOLOGICAL AND AQUARIUM ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director, and Mike Keele, Oregon Zoo Deputy Director, updated the Council on the Zoo accreditation process. Mr. Vecchio explained the process, which was a five-year renewal process. A team of three inspected the Zoo. They had met with Mr. Vecchio to express their major and minor concerns as well as points of accomplishment. On September 19th, he and other Zoo staff would appear before the full commission to address the report. They would speak to the progress on the team's concerns. He noted their points of accomplishment. He thanked the Council for their support and participation at the dinner. The team also acknowledged the Oregon Zoo Foundation. Mr. Vecchio spoke to the list of concerns which, included changes in the structure and management of the Zoo and level of anxiety on the staff. He noted that Mr. Keele would be looking at this issue before they met with the commission. They also noted that the vet department did not have enough clerical support. Mr. Vecchio said they had added support in that department so he found this comment a surprise. The issue was primarily around record keeping. Mr. Keele said they were trying to centralize some of the record keeping. Mr. Vecchio said another issue was routine maintenance got neglected. Mr. Vecchio said this was not true. Safety and security were first priority. The staff had mentioned this. He was concerned that this was an inaccurate staff perception. The team had criticism about the quarantine building. The Zoo also agreed with this concern. They would like to add a new building to the next master plan update. He noted that the commission would not accept plans for the future. This would be an interesting issue for the commission and whether this would effect accreditation. The team also noted some of the old facilities such as the bear cages. They suggested that the primate building needed renovating. He felt we had an obligation to fix the old as well as create new. He felt we might reconsider the priority of only building new. Councilor McLain clarified the bond language. She felt that the language included renovation. Councilors agreed with Mr. Vecchio's assessment that buildings needed to be repair along with the building new exhibits. He said security was important and the team had noted this. He said they had fixed the fence. The team also spoke to record keeping issues. A retired registrar would be coming in November to work with the Zoo on the record keeping.

Councilor Newman asked if any major concerns would keep us from getting accredited? Mr. Vecchio said he was concerned about the quarantined building. He explained the process if they

had to fix problems to maintain the accreditation. Councilor McLain asked about their game plan for bringing the quarantine building up to code. Mr. Keele responded said it was an older building and explained some of the conditions. Mr. Vecchio suggested that they would be coming to the Council with a plan as to how the \$62,000 would be used to fix some of the recommendations from the accreditation team.

3. ZOO REVENUE ALTERNATIVES

Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director, Teri Dresler and Sarah Chisholm, Zoo staff, were available for this presentation. Mr. Vecchio talked about the paid parking plan that was developed six years ago. Ms. Chisholm, Ms. Dresler and Michael Jordan, COO, had provided suggestions for paid parking. They would like to go forward with the \$.50 increase in admission as well as have paid parking. He addressed the \$.50 admission increase. They would like this across the board except for those would use light rail. They would exempt the light rail user from the admission increase.

He then addressed the parking issue. He spoke to three plans that addressed his concerns. His concerns had to do with not coming to the Zoo if people had to pay for parking. He said that the Children's Museum was struggling. He also didn't want it to impact catering at the Zoo. Option 1, they could have people pay as they left. The second option would be a flat parking fee. They would start very low such as \$1.00. This would be on an honor system. They would collect this fee at the ticket booth. Woodland Park Zoo used this system. Option three would be the Smart meters. They could install these in the parking lot. It would be administered by the City of Portland. They lose the ability to validate with this option. They were leaning towards Option 2. They had estimated six-figure revenue with Option 2. Councilor Newman asked if they would charge \$1.00. Councilors Burkholder and Monroe had offered to talk with TriMet about helping with subsidies.

Councilor Burkholder asked about Zoo membership and spoke to the benefits of the membership. Were they keeping up with the value of the membership? Mr. Vecchio talked about the membership levels available. Councilor Newman supported Option 2. Councilor McLain said she hoped that TriMet could sell something at their kiosk. Councilor Monroe talked about the benefits of memberships and greater patronage. Councilor Park asked how we were doing on the Park and Ride situation. Mr. Vecchio said the situation was under control. Councilor Park talked about the honor system and how it was framed. Councilor McLain said you wanted an honor system. Council President Bragdon asked which option councilors supported. The council supported Option 2. Councilor Park asked how it worked with the Portland Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Joel Morton and the Portland Parks Manager would meet and talked about updating the IGA. Mr. Vecchio said the last two years they had tried a paid parking permit for light rail users. They would be offering a parking permit this off-season. He provided detail of this permit plan.

4. COMPETITIVENESS FUND AT OCC AND POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DESIGN (LEEDS) CERTIFICATION AT OCC

Don Trotter, Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC) Chair, Mark Williams, General Manager, and Jeff Blosser, Oregon Convention Center (OCC) Executive Director, were present for the topic. Council President Bragdon discussed the previous week's MERC meeting where they adopted a resolution. Mr. Trotter discussed the resolution concerning the garbage excise tax. He felt that this was a good starting point and asked for comments on the document. As the document was not readily available for Council, Mr. Trotter and Mr. Williams verbally reviewed the document for Council. They discussed various items and talked about timeline for approval and criteria for how to spend the dollars. The criteria were for targeted investments in

the building that would assist in bringing business to Portland. With this fund there was the opportunity to look at a green building. The Green Building Service would come in November to talk with them. They believed that if there was an adopted plan, they could obtain a gold certification. The second piece was that increasingly having a green certified building was a positive. Many groups were asking about this. It was part of many groups' meeting criteria to have a green certification. He spoke to establishing our name and brand. The green and sustainable portion of Portland was important. He then spoke to other targeted issues such as the headquarters hotel. He also noted that the Visitor Fund had run dry. Another issue was the possibility of adding extra bodies for big events. The policy would set the broad range of criteria and give MERC guidance to formalize it within the budget process.

Councilor Newman suggested that this should not be part of the budget process. He spoke to legislative intent of the Council. Councilor McLain supported this idea. She talked about the goals and how wide ranging they were. She felt the Council had in mind more direction on how those funds should be used. Council wanted an opportunity to revisit these issues every year. Council President Bragdon agreed with Councilors McLain and Newman. He reacted to the three different goals. He felt Goal 1 was most consistent with his thoughts. He felt Goal 2 should be held back. He felt it was a bargaining chip. Councilor Park suggested keeping it within the budget process but have it as a separate discussion. He didn't want to limit our ability to get additional funding. He would hope we could negotiate something that would allow us to put more money into the first two goals. Councilor Newman said Goals 2 and 3 seemed related to each other. He agreed with Council President. He has concerns that the money would go to Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) or get lost in the operation of OCC. He felt this fund should be used to make the convention center more competitive. Councilor Monroe said a headquarters hotel would immediately make our convention center more competitive. He suggested that this money could help put a public/private partnership together for a headquarters hotel. Councilor McLain said the money was a limited pot. Her fear was that nothing would get done. If we concentrated on Goal 1, we could accomplish something. Councilor Burkholder said they were responding to an officially adopted resolution. He agreed that Goal 1 was their highest priority. He felt that the Council President was right. It was a blank check for partners to walk away from their obligations. He was trying to figure out how they could respond to this public document.

Mr. Trotter said this resolution was their initial recommendation. Councilor Newman said the Council was the one who spent the money. Mr. Williams said the Council gave guidance by their comments. Mr. Trotter suggested putting a majority of the money into Goal 1 but to leave a pot of money for Goal 2 or 3. Councilor Burkholder said Goal 1 was the primary reason they passed this allocation. Councilor Newman thought of this money as a grant. He wanted to make sure that if a third of the money was needed for maintenance, they should come back to Council. Mr. Jordan said once the Council committed to their goal priorities, he would suggest that annually they make appropriations specific to their goals. He felt the situation would change over years. Mr. Williams said the green building certification would be a multi-year plan. Councilors discussed Goal 2.

Mr. Blosser gave an update on LEEDS. He said it was approximately \$1 million in cost. He spoke to certification processes. Much of it would be replacing the HVAC system. Councilor Park asked about the eco-roof. Mr. Williams said it was a demonstration piece.

5. TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES POLICY BRIEFING AND STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Ted Leybold, Planning Department, said staff had proposed a cut list. The list was now in the technical committees for review. He spoke to the calendar of activities. They had had a release of the staff's technical evaluation, which included scoring. He explained further the purpose of the first cut list. They would have a 45-day comment period. There would be four listening posts. People would be commenting to councilors, Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) members and Oregon Transportation Association (OTA) members. The Oregon Transportation Association members would be included in the process. He explained the difference between OTA and Metro's processes. Councilor Park emphasized the difference in the processes. Our process was much more public. Councilor Burkholder said they had been talking about having more input to the OTA process. Councilor Park asked about the September 27th date.

Council President Bragdon asked about the quality and character of the applications, was it better? Mr. Leybold felt it was better this time. Councilor Burkholder suggested sharing some of the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee's (TPAC's) comments. Mr. Leybold said some of the comments were that they felt we had cut too deeply from the pedestrian projects. He explained how they put together the first list. They were looking for clear breaks in the technical category. Some other comments related to specific projects that were not on the list including the Ledbetter connection. The project was recommended to receive Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) funding. A second project was 172nd avenue in Clackamas County. They had difficulty with technical analysis. They had been working on further information. There was also a comment on road re-construction. There were comments on projects located in our 2040 centers. Another comment received was picking up only a portion of the project. Councilor Newman asked about Metro programs such as the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program. There was a comment about wanting more information about why some projects were cut more deeply. Councilor Park talked about policy issues on Green Streets. How do you match OTIA program with the Metro Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) program. These were some issues that would be brought up at JPACT. He spoke to regional equity. Councilor Newman said he was already getting city councilors calling them. He wanted their recommended list. Mr. Leybold talked about the policy direction JPACT and Council had given to Metro staff. A copy of these policies was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Leybold said they received 73 applications of which 7 were road applications.

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, and Bridget Wiegart, Planning Department, explained a letter written to Bruce Warner concerning freight route advisory project (a copy of which is included in the meeting record). Councilor Park asked Ms. Wiegart to explain the bridgework and truck traffic rerouting.

6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were none.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(i) AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT RELATED PERFORMANCE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

This session was cancelled.

8. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

9. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Metro Council Meeting

09/07/04

Page 5

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:35p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER
7, 2004**

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	9/9/04	Metro Council Agenda for September 9, 2004	090704c-01
2	Comments	6/30/04	To: Metro Council From: Tony Vecchio, Oregon Zoo Director Re: AZA Accreditation Team recommendations for the Oregon Zoo	090704c-02
4	Resolution	8/28/04	To: Metro Council From: Mark Williams, General Manager for MERC Re: Resolution No. 04-15 concerning MTOCA appropriations	090704c-03
5	Letter	9/12/04	To: Bruce Warner, ODOT Director From: Council President Bragdon and JPACT Chair Park Re: comments on freight route advisory project	090704c-04