



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2014
Metro Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:03 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett updated the Council on the following items:

- Her attendance of the Oregon City/County Managers Association training at the League of Oregon Cities Conference the week prior.
- The completion of an Economic Potential Report for the Willamette Locks, which will be presented to Council on October 23. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is providing staff expertise in their support for re-opening the locks, including moving the Army Corps of Engineers to complete an Historic Impact Assessment on the closure of the locks.
- Metro's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, occurring on October 1.
- The Oregon Zoo received the Marketing Excellence Award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) National Conference.
- The Coalition for a Livable Future Summit will occur on October 3.

2. INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTION PLAN AND ANIMAL TRANSPORT PRESENTATION

Mr. Chris Pfefferkorn, Deputy Director of Living Collections at the Oregon Zoo, and Mr. Michael Illig, Zoo Animal Curator, provided Council with their Institutional Collection Plan and Animal Transport Presentation. As part of an ongoing effort to brief the Metro Council on zoo operations, this presentation covered the practices and procedures embraced by the Zoo's institutional collection animal transport plans. The Oregon Zoo keeps Institutional Collection Plans (ICPs) and participates in Species Survival Plans (SSPs) to maintain AZA accreditation and follow best practices in supporting healthy animal populations. Executing these plans involves transporting animals to and from other zoos, working with federal agencies, and maintaining internal processes. Key elements of the presentation included:

- The purpose of animal collection, which is to maintain the genetic diversity of a species population through SSPs.
- The structure and purpose of relevant AZA programs, including the aforementioned SSPs, as well as the Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), Population Management Plan (PMP), and Regional Collection Plan (RCP).
- Reasons for animal transport, and the responsibilities of both the Oregon Zoo and SSPs in the movement of animals.
- Documents that accompany animal transport procedures, including the Transaction Worksheet, Animal Data Transfer Form, Animal Transaction Agreement, and Animal Shipment Information and Checklist.
- Discussion of animal movement at the Zoo's weekly curator meeting. Zoo curators are responsible for preparing the details of animal transport.
- Various animal transportation options and alternatives.

Council Discussion:

Councilors inquired about the decision-making process, procedures for animal care, responsibilities of involved parties, and other details surrounding the transportation of animals between the Oregon Zoo and other animal-focused organizations. Councilor Craddick and Council President Hughes inquired about the decision-making process, ensuing investigation, and corrective action surrounding the May 2014 transfer of nine tamarins from Harvard Medical School to the Oregon Zoo. Councilor Chase inquired about acceptable travel times for animals in transport, acceptable conditions inside transport devices, and about sizing restrictions for various modes of transport. Councilor Craddick inquired about post-transit animal quarantine procedures.

3. GENERAL OREGON ZOO UPDATE

Ms. Teri Dresler, Interim Director of the Oregon Zoo, presented to the Council the General Zoo Update. In May 2014, the Oregon Zoo experienced a significant change with the departure of its director. Since that time, zoo leadership has invested a focused effort on executing and updating the Zoo's five-year strategic plan, identifying key staffing needs and evaluating employee morale. The purpose of this presentation was to provide Council with an update on the Zoo's efforts to meet its challenges through strategic improvements. Ms. Dresler utilized the AZA's Mentoring Report (issued following the organization's pre-accreditation visit to the Zoo during the summer) to frame the discussion. The Zoo requested that the AZA highlight 5 distinct areas in its report:

- Emergency response protocols, particularly in regard to the dangerous animal health emergency response.
- Veterinary medical program, specifically staffing levels and structure, as well as the vet to vet tech ratio.
- Veterinary medical program policies and procedures (whether or not they meet industry standards and follow best practices).
- Organization structure in relation to size of collection and attendance.
- Relationship between fundraising organization and Zoo (structure and responsibilities).

Council Discussion:

Councilor Dirksen characterized the report as indicative of the Zoo's current "growth spurt". Councilor Collette inquired about utilization of the AZA report in the Zoo's search for a new director, and reaffirmed Council's commitment to a strong Zoo-Metro relationship. Councilor

Craddick inquired about the impact of changes highlighted in the report on the Zoo's revenue stream and costs, and about the influence of such changes on Zoo volunteers. Councilor Chase expressed a desire to initiate Metro programs which recognize and celebrate the Zoo's work, to enhance engagement between Metro and the Zoo. Councilor Harrington inquired about resources available through the AZA for connecting with other Zoos and sharing best practices. She also suggested that Council play a role in fostering a stronger relationship between Metro and the Zoo, and highlighted the importance of maintaining a meaningful connection between the new Zoo director and the Oregon Zoo Foundation (OZF). Council President Hughes spoke to the importance of analyzing and enhancing Zoo business practices to better reflect the Zoo's current situation.

4. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Craddick spoke about her attendance of the Powell-Division Steering Committee's third meeting, at which the committee reached consensus on the desired mode and route for the project. Councilor Stacey, who also attended, spoke about the committee's work to address concerns about displacement of residents. Councilors Stacey and Craddick also spoke about their attendance of the Rail~Volution 2014 Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Councilor Collette mentioned that the kick-off for the Friends of Willamette Falls group would be later that evening, and stated that she and Councilor Dirksen presented an update on Metro's Climate Smart Communities project to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). Councilor Harrington mentioned her attendance of the joint meeting between the Local Officials Advisory Committee (LOAC), LCDC, and the relevant citizen advisory committee. She also mentioned her attendance of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) Policy Committee Meeting. Council President Hughes requested Council authorization to allow members of Council and the Metro Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC) to attend Travel Portland's Familiarization Tour. All Councilors gave their "thumbs-up" for the authorization, which passed 7-0-0.

5. ADJOURN

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Cvetko, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 30, 2014

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Agenda	10/2/14	Council Agenda for Oct. 2, 2014	93014cw-01
3.0	Handout	9/29/14	Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Pre-Accreditation Report on the Oregon Zoo	93014cw-02