

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 6, 2005
Oregon Convention Center

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Susan McLain, Robert Liberty, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Rod Park (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Regular Council Meeting at 4:06 p.m.

1. PROCESSION OF MID-TERM COUNCILORS AND CALL TO ORDER

Metro Hazardous Waste Technicians escorted Council President Bragdon. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Rangers escorted Councilor McLain. Metro Oregon Zoo Mascots escorted Councilor Newman. Metro Exposition and Recreation Commission Ushers carried Councilor Park's graven image.

2. PROCESSION OF INAUGURAL AND RE-INAUGURAL COUNCILORS

Honored Metro employees escorted Councilors Hosticka, Councilor Burkholder and Councilor-elect Liberty. Council President Bragdon introduced Judge Rex Armstrong.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Rex Armstrong, Oregon Court of Appeals, administered the Oath of Office to Councilors Hosticka, Burkholder and Liberty. Judge Armstrong said he was honored to be invited to swear the Councilors in. He noted that Councilor Liberty and he had known each other for 30 years.

4. REMARKS OF NEWLY-INAUGURATED COUNCILORS

Council President Bragdon said the escorts were representative of what Metro did. His escorts needed to understand chemistry, emergency procedures, environmental issues, a little psychology and education too. When the customer drove away they knew more about what not to buy next time: His escorts were Rory Greenfield from Central, Kendall Walden, a hazardous waste specialist from Metro South in Oregon City and Kari Meyer, who oversaw the operations and staff at the Metro Central Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Councilor McLain's escorts were James Davis, a Metro Park Naturalist for 7 years. Mr. Davis conducted nature classes and tours around the region. Rachel Mortenson, a Metro Park Ranger for six years at Oxbow Regional Park, had a background in wildlife management. Shelly Young, a Metro Volunteer Naturalist and recent graduate of Metro's Nature University, began her service in October 2003. Seth Ring, a new arrival to Metro with three months of service as an Americorps volunteer, managed the wildlife monitoring program at many of Metro's natural areas.

Councilor Newman's escorts were a mountain goat Mike Hoglund, Solid Waste and Recycling Direcroe and a river otter Bill Stringer, Chief Financial Officer. Both escorts were part of the Great Northwest – Mountain Goat was the first exhibit you see when you come into the park.

Councilor Park's photo was ushered in by David Oster, who had started as a part-time PCPA usher and now worked in Events Services Department of the PCPA. Admissions staff provided services for events at the Oregon Convention Center and the EXPO Center. Susan Robblee, was in her fifth year volunteering as an usher in the Newmark and Winningstad Theatres and as a greeter at the Keller Auditorium and Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. She was Chair of the PCPA Volunteer Council, which oversaw and coordinated all of the PCPA volunteer programs. Robin Wilson, lead landfill technician at St. John's Landfill had been with Metro since 1994. Her main responsibilities at the St. John's landfill were monitoring, adjusting, and maintaining the gas system. Robin read and adjusted more than 160 wells and trenches at St. Johns, and 60 wells and probes at KFD.

Councilor Hosticka's escorts included Zookeeper April Yoder who had worked for 14 years with elephants and came to Metro from Paramount's Kings Dominion in Richmond, Virginia, the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans and Phoenix, Zoo Volunteer Sandra Armstrong. She had been a volunteer since 1997 and Oregon ZooGuides current President. She worked at the Elephant Barn every weekend; took the zoo's education animals to nursing homes and had received Packy Award in 2002. She worked full-time as a Senior Production Planner for Oregon Blount, Inc. Zoo Volunteer Rex Wheeler had been a volunteer since 1989. He was ZooGuides current President Elect. He had received the prestigious Packy Award in 1993. He was a Technological Consultant or as he called himself a technology czar.

Councilor Burkholder's escorts were representatives of our resident companies at Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA). The Blood Bottler, resident company of the PCPA served 70,000 to 100,000 children a year. The Big Friendly Giant at the Keller Auditorium was a classic Children's tale of an unusual friendship between a little girl and a Big Friendly Giant who together saved the world. Elf Steven Alexander was the box office manager as well as a director and music director with Portland Center Stage, a resident company of PCPA. He had won four Drammy Awards - two for directing, one for music directing and one for band conducting. Steven wore the costume of the elf from the play, The Santa Land Diaries. Now in its 17th season, Portland Center Stage was one of the 25 largest regional theater companies in the nation.

Councilor Liberty was escorted by Lydia Neill, a planner. Ms. Neill had worked at Springfield and Oregon City as a planner. She studied industrial land and market needs. She was also looking at brownfields. Tom Kloster, worked at Gresham and specializes in transportation.

Council President Bragdon introduced Councilor Burkholder who would serve as his Deputy this year. He noted that Councilor Burkholder thought globally and acted locally. He spoke to the variety of interests that Councilor Burkholder had.

Councilor Burkholder thanked Council President Bragdon for his words. He introduced his wife, Lydia Rich and his son. He said his family gave up a lot when he became an elected official. He appreciated their efforts and support. He talked about the reality of the world today. He began with a quote that captured his feelings about the situation we could ourselves in:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had

everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way..."

Beginning another four-year term as Metro Councilor from the northern half of the city of Portland both scared and thrilled him. On top of the challenges of overseeing a local government in the early 21st Century--soaring operating costs, rising public expectations and rising resistance to being taxed to pay for those expectations, being considered less trustworthy than a used car salesperson... he shuddered more at the unknown yet dramatic changes that were coming... global warming, the end of cheap oil and increasing disparities between the have and have-nots. Sometimes his head just spins.

And that's not all that kept him up at night. The leaders of our country were pursuing costly and deadly imperial wars around the globe while thirty-five states along with Oregon were going broke. It was boggling to think that just one percent of the nation's military budget would fund all of Oregon's schools for a whole year. What could we do about problems like homelessness, drug addiction, toxic waste dumps with the money were using to build and maintain 725 military bases around the globe or the \$50 Billion the president insisted on spending on a failure like Star Wars?

Then there was our beloved Oregon. Our state government was paralyzed by ideology and ignored the fact that educating, housing, policing, and serving citizens took money, money we used to give more or less willingly to enhance and improve the greater community, knowing that each of our small individual sacrifices created greater wealth and, more importantly, better citizens. We all seemed to be holding our breath for leadership that that would step forward and re-establish Oregon's reputation for progressive and collaborative solutions to the numerous problems we faced. Faced with the enormity of challenges and leaders that were distracted or mad, how did one keep hope alive? What could we do here, in this little special corner of the planet Earth when our world seemed to be going a little crazy?

Woody Allen put it well: "Fine. Life is tough and has been throughout history."

Our job as citizens was to strive to create the world we wished to live in, despite the obstacles. And here in this region, we had the opportunity along with the challenge. We had bright people, sumptuous nature, a tradition of caring and involvement. And we had the willingness to try new things. Like the Bottle, Bicycle and Beach Bills, Metro was created, a new and still unique form of government, with the goal of making government work better and work for the future... what foresight and audacity! Let us be as audacious! Remember, while pessimists may more often be right, optimists have more fun!

In the next four years, he and his colleagues were committed to working with you to pursue a vision of prosperity, health and personal fulfillment for all residents of this region. We would work with you to build cities that were thriving, exciting places to live and raise our families. We would make smarter investments in transportation, measuring success by safer and more accessible neighborhoods, cleaner air and a stronger local economy. We would increase parks and protect wild places inside the urban growth boundary for our spiritual and physical enrichment as well as protecting the green world in which we lived and upon which we depended so, so much. We would strive to ensure that everyone had a decent place to live and good paying work so they could afford a home.

So, how could we do all this? We could only do this with your help. Metro did best by being the big table around which we could gather the region's leaders and citizens. We needed to build

networks of collaboration, with the community and with the other governments in this region, including across the Columbia River, where one quarter of us live. We needed to reach out to our fellow Oregonians, whether they lived in the city or the country. Only with your help could we flesh out a vision capable of surmounting the tremendous challenges before us. Only with your help could we hope to succeed in making this vision come true.

This was a day of making pledges, of telling oaths. He said, please join me in pledging your hearts, your minds and your dreams to create a world without injustice, without war, without despair. A world with hope, freedom and joy.

Council President Bragdon introduced Councilor Hosticka.

Councilor Hosticka acknowledged his partner, Claudia. He thanked his supporters who worked on his campaign. He also thanked the citizen who suggested moving the Urban Growth Boundary south of the Willamette River. It showed that people do care about what Metro did. Metro's actions had a significant impact on their lives. The principles that Metro stood for had been tested in every election in recent years. The fact that Councilors Burkholder, Liberty and Hosticka were taking office today showed that people supported what Metro was doing. The success of Measure 37 did not mean that people rejected a compact urban form, or preferred an inefficient and wasteful transportation system or didn't want access to nature in their neighborhoods. It was time for Metro to lead, to re-energize ourselves and take strengths from the voters' support. There was a lot of work to do, so, let's get going.

Council President Bragdon introduced Councilor Liberty.

Councilor Liberty said he was honored to be here today appearing before his colleague and citizens of the region. He introduced his partner, Khanh Tran and his campaign manager, Matt Reed. He recognized those who helped him get elected to the regional democracy. He spoke to Metro's importance as a Regional Democratic Institution. Metro represented one of the nation's most important efforts to expand democracy to fit 21st century realities. He said, "the images from space make clear: it is metropolitan areas – not states or provinces and not individual cities and suburbs – that are the basic unit of economic and social organization for Americans and indeed for all human beings. We share one economy, one environment and we share a common future. Yet across the United States in other metropolitan regions, there is no one in charge, no way of making democratic decisions about their common future. There is only one place in the United States where a democratic institution is used to make decisions about the future of a region – here."

He noted that we had made decisions about our future when the voters adopted a Charter for Metro that made Metro a most important public service "to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for ourselves and future generations." He talked about his priorities for fulfilling Metro's mandate to preserve and enhance the environment and quality of life. He said, "I owe the people who elected me a public reaffirmation of the commitments I made to them in my election campaign." Quality of life means that all types and conditions of people and families have real choices of decent housing – all across the region. This is not only important in itself, but because where we can find housing to live determines the schools our children will attend, and this in turn will shape their entire future. The National Association of Realtors reports that the median price of a single-family home in 2004 in Portland was \$207,000. That is too much for too many families. But it was \$249,000 in Denver, \$270,000 in Las Vegas, \$438,000 in Los Angeles and \$560,000 in San Diego, which should make it clear that unlimited land supply never has and never will assure housing affordability." He looked forward to working with many people and

organizations to expanding the choices of housing available to all of our residents, in every part of the region. He meant getting housing built, not policies adopted.

He spoke to choices for travel and rethinking transportation investments to reflect fiscal realities. Quality of life also meant choices in how we travel. It was easy to forget that about 25% of us do not have a driver's license – chiefly the old, the young and the poor. We needed to make driving a choice not a necessity. If we gave more people more alternatives to the car, we would benefit those who choose to drive by freeing up space on our roads. He believed we were drawing to the end of the period when we could even imagine solving congestion by building ever more and wider roads. During the dark days early in World War II, Churchill told his war cabinet – “Gentlemen we have run out of money so now we must *think*.” Our shrinking tax revenues give us the opportunity to make a virtue of necessity by promoting more efficient use of the roads and rails we already have. It will force us to confront old limitations on how we fund transportation investment and even in how we define the problems those investments are supposed to solve.

He addressed protecting, enhancing and restoring nature in the city. He said, in this region, we have a deep appreciation for nature in its own right and for what it contributes to our life day to day. To preserve and enhance our quality of life meant having parks and natural areas – at the regional, local and neighborhood level, it meant preserving the precious natural areas we had left and restoring others that had been compromised or destroyed. To protect, enhance and restore these natural areas would require a balanced approach of education, acquisition, nonprofit work and also regulation. He knew his fellow councilors and many citizens, landowners, local governments and others had struggled for eight years over this issue of regulation of natural areas and were exhausted by it. He said, we needed to complete the process we had begun. But if these efforts proved insufficient, he felt he owed a duty to future generations to continue efforts to keep nature near us in the city.

He spoke to improving the regional economy and assuring living wage jobs. The quality of life could not be attained without the security of a living wage job. His experience with unemployment had been limited to a few months during 2003, but even that brief taste was frightening. He could barely imagine what it was like to have the responsibility to support a family and being out of work for months or years.

He appreciated the opportunity to join others in a broader discussion of our regional economy that did not equate economic development with farmland development. That discussion should focus on job quality as well as quantity. It should focus less on recruiting big out of state companies and more on small businesses which were already here, which provided most of the job growth and those jobs were located across the region not just at the edge. It should include a strategy to take advantage of the talents of the thousands of young, college-educated people, who had moved here and who could create the jobs of the future. And it would be helpful if we could separate out what was good for the regional economy from what was good – or essential – to the fiscal health of the local governments. Both justice and logic suggested that at least some form of property tax revenue sharing should be considered and he would like to help with that effort, should it be of interest to his colleagues on the council and in local governments.

He said implementing the 2040 Plan for our future meant everyone and every place was a winner. This seemed like a long list of tasks, but actually everything he had said could be expressed as a single goal, the implementation of our region's vision for the future, the 2040 Plan. It was time now to move translated paper and policy of 2040 plan into real places, places that assured a high quality of life well into this new century. Implementing the 2040 plan meant our region succeeded as whole – it could not afford to have winners and losers, winning and losing

communities or winning or losing families. It could not afford to perpetuate divisions by class, race, ethnicity or nationality. It was every bit as important for 82nd Avenue or King Boulevard to succeed as it was for the Silicon Forest to flourish. He looked forward to a time when the people who lived in Lents or Albina, Milwaukie or Cornelius would enjoy a quality of life that was different – but just as enviable as other communities.

He spoke to reconciling Measure 37 with Metro's mandate to protect and enhance our quality of life. There were some daunting challenges to overcome to translate these ideas into reality. At the head of the list was Measure 37, a measure he strongly opposed, but which was now the law of the State of Oregon. The voters had sent an unmistakable message to elected officials that they wanted fairness in the regulation of land and other property. Fairness was a value he could fully embrace. How – or whether - we could reconcile the provisions of Measure 37 - with our mandate to preserve and enhance our quality of life for everyone was yet to be determined, but he was going to make his best effort to work with others across the region to achieve this reconciliation.

He felt that the skills and passion of our region's residents could help us success in protecting and enhancing our quality of life and implement our 2040 Plan for the future. While there were many challenges, we had tremendous human resources that could be brought to bear to the task of implementing 2040 and fulfilling the mandate of the Charter. These included the immensely sophisticated community of citizen activists, who had learned about planning and community development through their participation in various projects, controversies and advisory committees. They could be demanding, harsh in their criticism and uncompromising at times, but their passion and knowledge was a huge community asset. They were not problems; they were partners for solving problems whom we must engage. As other people had said, "activists are hell to live with but they make great ancestors."

In this region we benefited from a full spectrum of nonprofit organizations who worked on the whole array of livable communities issues, from affordable housing, to transportation policy, to resources conservation, community education and issues of social justice. We also had an impressive and growing number of developers and designers, bankers and builders who were building new kinds of communities, homes and businesses. What was happening in the Pearl and South Waterfront Districts and in smaller development and redevelopment sites across the entire region showed that we had begun a new and exciting era of innovation that should increase our ambitions about what could be achieved. We had many educational institutions that expressed their commitment to a new and better future for our regional, not only through research and education on these issues, but also by how and where they built and renovated their facilities.

He said that we were lucky indeed to have so many willing and able leaders among mayors and city councilors and county commissions across the region. Unlike their counterparts in almost every other metropolitan area in the country, they were accustomed to working together and thinking regionally as well as locally. They continued to provide examples of leadership and innovation from which Metro could learn. There was the staff here at Metro. He knew from recent and prior experience that the staff worked here because they believed in what they did and they were good at it. He saluted their efforts. He particularly included in this list the people who worked on issues of waste disposal, waste reduction and recycling, who were building our regional open space system, and managing the zoo and our wonderful arts and visitor facilities that made their own important contributions to our quality of life.

Finally, there are his colleagues, President Bragdon and my fellow councilors. He respected their leadership, experience and shared many of their values. He had a great deal to learn from them and intended to contribute to their efforts.

Finally, he had 240,000 bosses who wanted him to get on with the job they gave him.

He said he would do so with humility, enthusiasm and pleasure and with the confidence that came from having so many partners in this new role.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Minutes of the December 16, 2004 Metro Council regular meeting.

Motion:	Councilor Liberty moved to adopt December 16, 2004 Metro Council minutes
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Vote:	Councilors Hosticka, Burkholder, Newman, McLain, Liberty, and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 aye, the motion passed with Councilor Park absent from the vote.
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6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1 **Resolution No. 05-3524**, For the Purpose of Reorganizing the Metro Council for the Calendar Year 2005.

Motion:	Councilor Burkholder moved to adopt Resolution No. 05-3524
Seconded:	Councilor McLain seconded the motion

Council President Bragdon addressed the contents of the resolution. He noted Councilor Burkholder would be his deputy.

Vote:	Councilors Hosticka, Burkholder, Newman, McLain, Liberty, and Council President Bragdon voted in support of the motion. The vote was 6 aye, the motion passed with Councilor Park absent from the vote.
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7. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Michael Jordon, Chief Operating Officer, said it had been his privilege to work with the Council.

8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilor Hosticka announced that the ping pong table was up and running. It was needed to improve morale at Metro.

Council President Bragdon thanked the staff that helped with this celebration.

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9. ADJOURNMENT AND RECESSONAL

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 6,
2005

There were none.