



METRO COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Nancy Hinnen, Portland: Ms. Hinnen is an Oregon Zoo Foundation Trustee and testified in support of the Oregon Zoo. She discussed the conservation work of the Zoo and its staff, citing the improvements planned for the elephants and California Condor program, and asking the Council to continue to support the work of the Oregon Zoo.

Kim Overhage, Beaverton: Ms. Overhage, Chair of the Board of Trustees, read written testimony on behalf of Brianne Hyder, a member of the Oregon Zoo since 2007 and a foundation volunteer, who unexpectedly could not attend the Council meeting. Ms. Hyder's written testimony focused on the Oregon Zoo's work in wildlife conservation and animal welfare, as well as how they have inspired Zoo visitors to care more about the issues as well. She requested that the Council continue to support the Oregon Zoo.

R.A. Fontes, Lake Oswego: Mr. Fontes provided an update to the Metro Council on autonomous vehicles, specifically the new car created by Google. He described the new vehicle's attributes including 25 mph maximum speed, a soft, plastic front end to minimize damage in an accident and potential costs of using it as a shared vehicle (for short, inside of city commutes). Mr. Fontes encouraged the Council to start thinking of alternative options such as this one and the concepts of shared autos, carpooling and other programs in the case that a larger public transit system is not available.

2. PROBLEM SOLUTION LETTER ESSAYS PRESENTATION: CATLIN GABEL SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS' RESPONSE TO 2014 MULTNOMAH COUNTY REPORT CARD ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES

Council President Hughes introduced Mr. Carter Latendresse, 6th Grade English teacher at Catlin Gabel School, to provide a brief presentation on new curriculum that had been added in response to students' growing concerns over recent national events related to racism. Mr. Latendresse assigned his students to read the executive summary of Multnomah County's 2014 Report Card on Racial and Ethnic Disparities, as well as an excerpt from The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander, and other related nonfiction, further explore and discuss background issues relating to systemic versus personal racism and finally write an essay in response to the Multnomah County report to find

solutions for some of these issues. He explained that the class was asked to vote on the essays, selecting four that would be presented by the student author to the Metro Council today. Mr. Latendresse introduced the selected students, Essie Ashton, Imara Moore, Kelly Park, and Emma Clark, to read their response essays and letters to the Council, which ranged in subject from teen pregnancy and family planning to access to quality education and healthy food.

Council Discussion

Councilors thanked Mr. Latendresse and commended his skills as a teacher for creating the assignment and helping the students express themselves, analyze these issues and then present in such a great way. Councilors thanked the students for their well thought out and researched essays, excellent articulation of such complex issues and poise in their presentations.

3. OREGON ZOO ELEPHANTS: THE BIG PICTURE

Council President Hughes introduced Ms. Teri Dresler, Interim Director at the Oregon Zoo, to provide a brief background on the Oregon Zoo elephant program, as well as on the voter-approved Oregon Zoo bond measure. She reminded the Council that the goals of \$125 million bond measure, approved in 2008, are focused on seven key areas in order to enhance animal welfare, improve habitats, improve sustainability by updating infrastructure and improve opportunities for conservation education. Ms. Dresler discussed the make-up of the Zoo Bond Citizens Oversight Committee and explained that they are responsible for ensuring that bond dollars are delivering on the commitment to the voters, also noting that the committee will be presenting their annual report at the April 9th Metro Council meeting at the Oregon Zoo.

Ms. Dresler introduced Mr. Bob Lee, Oregon Zoo Elephant Curator, to speak more specifically about the elephant program. Mr. Lee expressed his appreciation for being able to talk about the elephants at the Oregon Zoo and stated that mostly people who are passionate about the elephants have the same goal: they want what's best for the individual, what's best for the herd and what's best for elephants across the world. He discussed his experience in working with the elephants at the Oregon Zoo, his pride for the Oregon Zoo's leadership and expertise in caring for Asian elephants, and addressed some of the work that is misunderstood, such as breeding. Mr. Lee clarified that the Oregon Zoo encourages breeding "the natural way, the old-fashioned way", as opposed to artificial insemination, because it is critical to their well-being, is a natural process and a natural behavior. He acknowledged that more is known now about the social needs of elephants and that zoo practices have evolved over the past few decades, based on research and experience at the Oregon Zoo, starting with Packy in 1962. He provided a health update on Packy, explaining that he's getting the best treatment, is familiar with his surroundings and is being cared for by people who have taken care of him for years. Mr. Lee also discussed improvements to the Elephants Lands Habitat, noting that increased space is helpful, but even more important will be the activity and choice available to the herd.

Mr. Lee introduced Mr. Chris Pfefferkorn, Deputy Director of Living Collections at the Oregon Zoo, who provided information on how the Oregon Zoo plays a role also in the conservation, education and inspiration to save the natural world around us. Mr. Pfefferkorn described the critical role of zoos as conservation educators, research, and advocating for species protection and preservation around the world. He also explained that while the Oregon Zoo's vision for an offsite facility haven't changed, it has evolved, been further refined as more specific plans have been developed and a number of rural properties have been considered; he also noted that the bond measure did not mention an offsite elephant facility.

Council Discussion

Councilors thanked Ms. Dresler, Mr. Pfefferkorn and Mr. Lee for their dedication to the Oregon Zoo’s elephants and for providing information about how we care for the elephants at the Oregon Zoo. In response to councilor inquiry, staff did confirm that if Packy were moved to an elephant sanctuary, he would have to be isolated until any other elephants in the sanctuary were treated for T.B. and until he had been treated, before he could be integrated into a herd. Staff also confirmed that there isn’t as much known about how sanctuaries are run, as they are not required to provide documentation, make records available or be as transparent as a public facility like the Oregon Zoo. Councilors discussed individual experiences with the elephants at the Oregon Zoo and expressed how important the elephants are to our community.

4. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Motion:	Councilor Sam Chase moved to adopt the Council Meeting minutes from February 19, 2015.
Second:	Councilor Kathryn Harrington seconded the motion.

Vote: Council President Hughes, and Councilors Dirksen, Collette, Harrington, Craddick, Chase and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion passed.

5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Martha Bennett, COO, provided an update on the following events or items: Metro 101 events planned for newly-elected officials around the region and an article featuring Blue Lake Park as a top U.S. playground (ranked at #26 out of 50) in the country.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilors provided updates on the following events or items: TriMet Board of Directors meeting, Tualatin Chamber of Commerce Key Leaders Breakfast event, and the Annual Volunteers event at the Oregon Zoo.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 3:48 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber.

Respectfully submitted,



Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAR. 5, 2015

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Testimony	03/05/2015	Testimony handout from Nancy Hinnen	030515c-01
1.0	Testimony	03/05/2015	Testimony handout from Brianne Hyder	030515c-02
1.0	Handout	03/05/2015	Autonomous Vehicle Update from R.A. Fontes	030515c-03
2.0	Handout	02/27/2015	Letters to Metro Council from Catlin Gabel students	030515c-04
4.0	Minutes	02/19/2015	Council Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2015	030515c-05