



## **METRO COUNCIL MEETING**

Meeting Minutes

Apr. 9, 2015

Oregon Zoo, Vista Room

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

### **2. 2015 OREGON ZOO BOND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Council President Hughes introduced Heidi Rahn, Oregon Zoo Bond Project Manager, and Bill Kabeisman, Chair of Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee, to provide a presentation on the 2015 Annual Report. Mr. Kabeisman provided a brief history of the committee and explained that the committee is required to annually present a report, in order to note what is working well and suggest any potential issues or improvements that could be made. He noted that the committee wanted to commend the Oregon Zoo Bond Program in several areas, including: a clear, organized governing structure and good processes in place to ensure that Metro will be a good steward of the bond money, continuing its efforts on low percentage of cost change orders on project costs, and noted also that projects completed to-date were all on time (or early) and current projects are on track to be completed by their deadlines as well. Mr. Kabeisman stated in order to keep the Bond Program delivering what it needs to for the voters, the committee's report included recommendations, including: a continued look at alternative procurement processes that allow for more participation from the Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (MWESB) community, consideration for how the Zoo Education Center construction this fall will affect visitors, Metro Council should make a final decision about a remote elephant center this year once the feasibility studies are complete and all construction/operational costs are estimated, and that the program should continue to review of costs/budgets and administration of bond money.

#### ***Council discussion***

Councilors discussed parking issues and the Washington Park Transportation Management Association (TMA), which Mr. Kabeisman indicated that the Oversight Committee could look more into and come back to report on later. In response to councilor inquiry, Ms. Rahn and Craig Stroud, Oregon Zoo, noted that the train and track loop is jointly run and managed between Metro and Portland Parks and Recreation. Councilors thanked the committee members (both past and new members) for their hard work and time dedication, noting that they are all volunteers; they noted

that the oversight committee takes their job very seriously, ensuring that the operations of the bond projects stay on budget and will work long term.

3. **YOUR ZOO, A RECAP OF THE PAST YEAR'S OPERATIONS AND WHAT'S COMING THIS SUMMER/FALL**

Council President Hughes introduced Mr. Craig Stroud, Mr. Caleb Ford, and Mr. John Sterbis, Oregon Zoo staff, to provide a presentation on Zoo operations for the past year and updates for the current year. Mr. Stroud stated that the Oregon Zoo strives to create engaging experiences, advancing the highest level of animal welfare, environmental literacy and conservation science, and that exceptional facilities are a part of creating an exceptional Zoo guest experience. He noted that major activities and changes in the past year include: the Elephant Lands project, creation of a campus loop for ZooLights, new food carts, and the Stellar Cove ozone generator and pool project.

Mr. Caleb Ford presented a brief update on attendance and finances at the Oregon Zoo, discussing a decrease at the beginning of the fiscal year due to the construction projects and guest parking changes. Mr. Ford noted operational changes that were made as a result including staffing adjustments, lower mid-week admissions and minimizing discretionary spending, and that by the end of March, the Zoo has recovered and attendance has actually increased. He also noted that there was record attendance at ZooLights as well as for the months of December, January and February. Mr. Ford discussed recent outreach efforts including donations of admissions tickets to community organizations in the area and free admission days (bringing in more than 27,000 guests).

Mr. Stroud also discussed guest programs and activities for the coming year, noting changes including reduced concert capacity due to construction, changes to event food and beverage policies, the Wildlife Live show move to a new venue at the Zoo, and current operational considerations being reviewed such as how the Education Center construction will affect exhibit viewing and train access.

Mr. John Sterbis discussed changes in operations relating to food and beverage, such as looking at providing a wider variety of food options, healthier options, and using more local/regional providers and vendors. Mr. Sterbis noted accomplishments this year including: completed renovation of Cascade Grille, an increase in sales and catering, and new shave ice concept starting up, but also noted improvements still needed at the AfriCafe, BearWalk Café and other food and beverage locations. He also mentioned planned improvements for this year would include bringing in local and independent food carts, an updated food inventory system to create more efficiencies, an event management system, a coffee shop at the Zoo Education Center (Spring 2017), and working to improve the guest services experience and increasing employee recognition.

Mr. Stroud introduced Mr. Bob Lee and Mr. Chris Pfefferkorn, Oregon Zoo staff, who provided a brief update on the Elephants Lands project, indicating project phasing and openings and noting that the project will be providing choice, new activities, and ultimately will support our elephant family.

***Council discussion***

Councilors thanked the presenters and Zoo management for creating good work environments for Metro employees, working to keep admission pricing down and offering free days which benefit parents and low-income families, and all of their great work on operations and the Zoo's

conservation work around the world. In response to Councilor inquiry on potential new parking plans and dealing with congestion that comes with nice, sunny days and high attendance, Zoo staff briefly discussed that the Washington Park TMA would be looking at options later in the fall and they could provide an update as that study gets underway. Councilors also passed along condolences about Rama to the Zoo staff that worked so closely with him and thanked staff for their dedication to the all of the animals at the Oregon Zoo and around the world.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion:	Councilor Sam Chase moved to adopt items on the consent agenda.
Second:	Councilor Craig Dirksen seconded the motion.

Vote:	Council President Hughes, and Councilors Harrington, Chase, Collette, Craddick, Dirksen, and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion <u>passed</u> .
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Council President Hughes and Councilors acknowledged the newly appointed and current members in the audience, including Deidra Krys-Rusoff, Linda Craig, Kim Overhage, Kevin Spellman, Dick Stenson, and Karen Weylandt.

**5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Martha Bennett provided an update on the following events or items: thanks to Kim Overhage and Jani Iverson from the Oregon Zoo Foundation, as well as the whole Board, for their hard work on adopting the service agreements, thanks to the Oregon Zoo staff in attendance as it's great to have them at a Council meeting, update on the Mayors' Consortium ad-hoc meeting regarding the 2015 Urban Growth Management Decision and 2014 Draft Urban Growth Report, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance's 2015 Alice Award event which will honor Metro for their work on Climate Smart Communities and Active Transportation, Our Shared Region engagement events.

**6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: Transit Oriented Development Steering Committee meeting updates including: selling Metro's share of Westgate property to the City of Beaverton and a new lease with APANO for the 82<sup>nd</sup> and SE Division building, the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Steering Committee meeting (testing still going on, but construction completed) and related celebratory events leading up to the opening on September 12<sup>th</sup>, TriMet's free day on September 12<sup>th</sup> for all transit (including the tram), recent MPAC and JPACT meetings, opening of Nadaka Nature Park, the BioCycle Conference 2015, ACT Region 1 committee formation update, recent OMPOC meeting and lobby day in Salem, and updates on land use and Metro-related legislation currently in hearings in Salem.

7. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 4:02pm. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 2 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center, council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra Eldridge".

Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APR. 9, 2015**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
4.0	Minutes	04/02/2015	Council Meeting Minutes from Apr. 2, 2015	040915c-01