



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:04 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Ms. Bennett announced that female members of the elephant herd at the Oregon Zoo are moving into Elephant Lands and Packy will be moved in later in the week.
- Oregon Governor Kate Brown will be touring Willamette Falls Friday, May 29th.
- On Thursday, May 21st there will be a Metro Council retreat to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park to discuss the history, current state and future visions of Metro's system of parks, trails and natural areas.
- On Wednesday, May 20th from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers there will be a lunch and learn on the Lents Neighborhood Five Year Action Plan.

2. JOB POLARIZATION AND THE VALUE OF MIDDLE WAGE JOBS

- Mr. Corky Collier, of the Columbia Corridor Association began the presentation with an introduction to the current job situation in the City of Portland and the decreasing number of middle wage jobs.
- Ms. Raihana Ansary, of the Portland Business Association described that since the great recession Portland has gained back most of the jobs it lost, but not in middle income wages. Most of the new jobs created were in high wage and low wage occupations. Adding to increasing job polarization, there has also been an increase in income for high wage jobs, while upper middle, lower middle, and low income job salaries have remained stagnant over the past few years. Portland outpaced most other major cities in the U.S. in wage growth, especially high wage growth.
- Mr. Steve Kountz, with the City of Portland added that there are strong disparities among Portland's ethnic groups. The medium income for African Americans is almost half that of white American's. Communities of color face more barriers attaining college degrees, which made it much more difficult for them to leave the low wage salary group.

- Mr. Kountz also noted that different land uses and transportation options also increase disparities among geographic regions and communities. Land use and transportation planning that focuses on city centers and corridors can concentrate professional and management job growth in centers leaving corridors with service industry occupations.
- Middle income policy choices to expand growth in middle income occupations are:
 - Industrial land retention and expansion
 - Workforce housing
 - Trade Growth and Freight Infrastructure
 - Transit Access to Middle/High-Wage Jobs
 - Workforce Development/Career and Technical Education

Council Discussion:

- Council President Hughes inquired about Portland's industrial lands policies and what could be done regarding these industrial lands policies to increase manufacturing and middle wage jobs, while taking into account the urban growth boundary and its limitations to expanding industrial lands.
 - Mr. Collier clarified that the panel's goal was to show the Metro Council the problems that Portland is facing with increased job polarization, but not necessarily provide council with an in depth solution. A broader potential solution is to focus on having enough industrial land. The metro area as a whole is doing well with adequate industrial lands, but Portland has been losing industrial lands.
 - Ms. Ansary added that the City of Portland is going to have difficulty accommodating for industrial lands as many former industrial and manufacturing areas of the city have been developed for housing and commercial uses.
- Councilors Harrington and Craddick inquired about the industrial lands shortfall and what can be done to provide adequate lands for middle wage jobs and if brownfield redevelopment is an option.
 - Mr. Collier answered that brownfield redevelopment is important and can be looked at as one potential solution.
- Councilor Stacey noted that the City of Portland in particular is dealing with significant residential development and that these developments are converting some formerly industrial and manufacturing lands into residential zones.
 - Mr. Collier agreed and stated that these new developments that convert industrial lands further increase inequity.

3. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Councilors Craddick and Dirksen opened for the International Trails Symposium May 17th.
 - Councilor Dirksen added that there were many international attendees.
- Councilor Dirksen was involved in the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) finance subcommittee meeting Monday, May 18th.
- Councilor Chase announced that he attended the opening celebration of K^hunamokwst Park on Saturday, May 16th.
- Council President Hughes discussed relevant senate bills in the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session with Councilors.
- Councilor Chase expressed his interest in Outdoor School Legislation-SB 439 and HB 2648. These two bills propose funding sources for outdoor school. One source of funding would be

Metro Council Work Session

May. 19, 2015

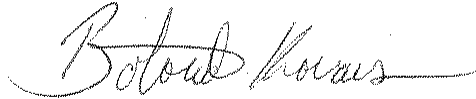
Page 3 of 4

a solid waste fee imposed on all disposal sites that receive domestic solid waste through a \$4.40 increase in tipping fee.

- Councilors conveyed that they would like to discuss these bills in further detail before taking a stance on these bills.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Botond Kovacs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY. 19, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	PowerPoint	05/19/15	Middle-Income Jobs in the Portland-metro economy	051915cw-01
3.0	Handout	05/19/15	HB 2621: The Case For Piloting Fixed Speed Cameras	051915cw-02
3.0	Handout	05/19/15	State Legislation for Funding Outdoor School	051915cw-03