



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 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 the Oregon Zoo offered free admissions to veterans on Memorial Day.
- Metro was awarded a grant from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission for the Council Chamber broadcasting system.
- On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> Metro will be celebrating Asian Pacific heritage month with a lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center.

**2. NATURAL AREAS SYSTEM PLAN RETREAT FOLLOW-UP**

- Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter of Metro announced that the Natural Areas System Plan retreat follow up will focus on specific program areas of the Natural Areas System Plan.
- Last Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> the Metro Council held a retreat at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park to discuss the history, current state and future visions of Metro's system of parks, trails and natural areas.
- There are three subjects up for discussion regarding the Metro Council's vision on the Parks and Natural Areas System Plan. These include:
  1. Current commitments
    - Investments currently planned for and funded by either the 2006 Natural Areas Bond or the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas Levy
  2. Strategic Expansion
    - Investments envisioned in current plans or policies (such as target area refinement plans or trail master plans), but not currently funded
  3. Aspirational Growth
    - Big ideas, current policy and not currently funded

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Bob Stacey expressed the importance of making trails more accessible for walking and bicycling and tied it to the Active Transportation Plan.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington spoke about having the Regional Trails Master Plan imbedded into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Pursuing development and investment for trails that have their master plans done or in progress should be a priority. Current commitments and strategic expansion should be focused on different areas, with current commitments looking at development and trail connectivity balanced with strategic expansion with acquisitions in other areas.
- President Tom Hughes agreed with Councilor Harrington that there needs to be a focus on developing the current system of trails and that expanding them is more “Aspirational Growth” than “Strategic Expansion”.
- Councilors discussed the importance of incorporating equity goals into the Natural Areas System Plan, in particular providing natural areas and recreational areas to underserved communities.
- Councilor Craig Dirksen wanted to clarify that parks can be defined as natural areas or recreational areas containing recreational assets such as playgrounds and sports infrastructure that may not fit into Metro’s mission compared to natural areas and trail planning.
- Councilor Carlotta Collette inquired if urban agriculture is something that can be incorporated into the Parks and Natural Areas System Plan in the future and mentioned that many people gather plants from Metro owned and managed parks for culturally specific reasons.
- Ms. Brennan-Hunter thanked councilors for all their input and informed them that there will be refinements based on their feedback to the Natural Areas System Plan and they do plan to have more stakeholder engagement.

### **3. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS**

- Ms. Alison Kean, Metro Attorney announced that the Office of the Metro Attorney has two new summer law clerks. Metro exclusively hire’s from the diversity programs of the various law schools in the region. Both students are from the University of Oregon.
- On the Convention Center Hotel, the bond council and underwriters are working to prepare for issuing the revenue bonds.
- The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program is currently working with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon to draft and negotiate a lease with them on the NE 82<sup>nd</sup> and Division building that Metro has with the TOD program.
- Metro’s Natural Areas program is currently working on a conservation easement.
- The Oregon Zoo is doing public records responses and reviews. Work is being done on Zoo foundation sponsorship to negotiate agreements with the Oregon Zoo’s corporate sponsors.
- Metro is working on Human Resources and legal advice, regarding the legalization of marijuana and how to handle reports of positive Marijuana tests at the work place.

### **4. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

- Councilor Collette announced that the architect has been selected for the Willamette Falls Riverwalk and will be announced on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> when Oregon Governor Kate Brown tours Willamette Falls.

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- Council President Hughes discussed important senate bills in the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session with Councilors.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:34 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. 26, 2015**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Newspaper	05/21/15	Portland Tribune	052615cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Parks and Natural Areas System Plan METRO COUNCIL'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE	052615cw-02
<b>2.0</b>	Map	05/26/15	Parks and Natural Areas System Plan Map	052615cw-03
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Parks Planning and Development	052615cw-04
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Trail Planning and Development	052615cw-05
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Land Acquisition	052615cw-06
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Grant	052615cw-07
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	05/26/15	Local Share/Local Government	052615cw-08