



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 04, 2015  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

**Councilors Excused:** Councilor Dirksen

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:02 p.m.

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- Ms. Barbara Spears, Portland: Ms. Spears expressed to the Metro Council her concerns regarding the breeding program and treatment of Oregon Zoo elephants.
- Ms. Courtney Scott, Portland: Ms. Scott addressed the Metro Council on the Oregon Zoo elephants and noted that zoos are not places elephants should be living in.
- Sandy Mill, Portland: Ms. Mill addressed the Metro Council by sharing quotes from staff at other zoos regarding the ethical reasons to transfer elephants from zoos to sanctuaries and requested that Oregon Zoo elephant Packy be transferred to a sanctuary to live out his remaining years.
- Ms. Janet Marcle-Hayes, Portland: Ms. Hayes addressed the Metro Council by requesting councilors and Metro listen to the input of their constituents.
- Mr. Ron Swaren, Portland: Mr. Swaren addressed the Metro Council on the Southwest Corridor Project, specifically regarding cost overruns, the use of double-decker buses as a possible transit option, and the use of bike lanes on Barbur Blvd.

**2. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

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

- Metro Council President Tom Hughes began the work session with the hearing of public testimony.
  - The subject matter of the public testimony included the Oregon Zoo elephants and the Southwest Corridor project.
- Ms. Bennett attended the G9 meeting on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting focused on the Urban Growth Report.
- Ms. Bennett along with Metro staff Crista Gardner, Laura Dawson-Bobner and Rachel Byers attended the United Ways generosity awards Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Metro was recognized for the 2014 charitable giving campaign.

**3. OREGON CONVENTION CENTER WEBSITE AND LOGO PREVIEW**

- Mr. Scott Cruickshank began the presentation by providing the Metro Council with a preview of the design of the new Oregon Convention Center website and brand identity.
- Ms. Danielle Kulczyk of Metro explained the new features of the new website. These new features included:
  - Live Chat
  - Booking and space planning software connection
  - Robust search
  - Translation
- Ms. Kulczyk also previewed the new page designs, event calendar and visitor landing page with the Councilors.
- Mr. Matt Pizzuti of the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) explained that the goal of the new website and logo for the OCC is meant to raise the perception and awareness of the OCC.
- Ms. Janice Larson added that the desired characteristics of the OCC site will be:
  - Smart
  - Welcoming
  - Cool
  - Innovative
  - Connected

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Shirley Craddick expressed that there are similarities of the new OCC logo to that of the University of Oregon.
- President Hughes inquired about the OCC and its relationship to the global market and the technologies needed to make it a competitive global meeting center. President Hughes added the strategic location of Portland, as it is located halfway between Europe and East Asia.
  - Mr. Cruickshank replied that there needs to be greater development of a language translation department. The current languages listed on the website are Chinese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

**4. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Mr. Tim Collier informed the Council about the state of Metro finances through the third quarter of the fiscal year.
- Overall revenues performed better than the conservative pace set forth in the budget plan. Expenditures came in under budget, though largely in-line with expectations.
- The OCC and Portland 5 (P5) are both having record years.
- Zoo Revenues are on track and have rebounded very strongly.
- The revenues for the Research Center are less than what was budgeted.
- Metro is on track for the 2015-16 budget year.

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Craddick inquired about the Research Centers revenue challenges.
  - Mr. Collier replied that there has been turnover in the research center and management shifts that have created challenges.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington appreciates how well the Third Quarter Financial Report shows up on her phone and that the graphs and charts are clear and also showed up very well.

## **5. OREGON ZOO UPDATES**

- Ms. Terri Dresler of the Oregon Zoo provided Councilors with important Zoo updates and acknowledged her appreciation for the passion and concern of animal welfare among the community members of the Portland region.
- Updates included:
  - There is a request to add a vet hospital manager position to the Oregon Zoo.
  - There was a Zoo Foundation Board meeting Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Oregon Zoo is on track to hire a new director on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - From July 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> the Association of Zoos and Aquariums will be visiting the Oregon Zoo.
  - Many of the Zoo's facilities need to be repainted and require other forms of maintenance.
  - A third party review committee is being formed for the Remote Elephant Center at Roslyn Lake.
  - A male Rhino will arrive at the Oregon Zoo on July 8<sup>th</sup> from the St. Louis Zoo. A vet and two animal keepers will accompany the rhino on its move to Oregon.
  - On June 30<sup>th</sup> Councilors will hear from Zoo staff about the condor program.
  - Leland Brown will be engaging with hunters on June 30<sup>th</sup> in gun clubs and demonstrating the use of lead and non lead ammunition. The goal is to move away from the use of lead based ammunition.
  - The Oregon Zoo has an emergency fire arms team with loaded weapons.
  - Oregon Zoo elephant Tusko tested positive for Tuberculosis, but he is not considered to be infectious. Staff are asking for him to be re-integrated into the herd. He and any other elephants that tested positive for TB will continue to receive treatment for two years.

### ***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Harrington inquired about the situation of the Western Pond Turtles. The Oregon Zoo is doing conservation work, but it does not appear to be as widely publicized as the work of Washington State. The Oregon Zoo should try to promote its conservation work better.
- Councilors expressed the importance of the elephant program and discussed the direction it should take in the future for the best interest of the elephants.
- Councilors Sam Chase and Bob Stacey noted that trying to solve the TB problem for Zoo elephants will help elephants in the wild as well who suffer from TB.
- Councilor Craddick requested that Councilors receive more frequent information and facts regarding the Oregon Zoo. This would be helpful when giving responses to the statements and questions the public has.

## **6. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATE AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

- Councilor Craddick announced the Oregon Zoo Foundation has 5 members leaving and 5 new ones coming. There will be a reception held Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Zoo.
- Councilor Chase attended a Center for Democratic and Participatory Governance meeting on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting covered governance structures that have been successful for other Metropolitan Planning Organization's that are working on major infrastructure projects.
- Councilor Stacey attended the Fair Housing Council tour on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

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- President Hughes thanked the councilors who attended the Japan-America Society of Oregon dinner.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Botond Kovacs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

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**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE. 04, 2015**

There were none.