



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Council President Tom Hughes

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

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

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

- Ms. Bennett discussed important senate bills in the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session with Councilors.
- Ms. Bennett introduced Jeff Frkonja as the new director of Metro's research center.
- Ms. Bennett spoke about Metro's projects of connecting community members to nature.
 - Ms. Kathleen Brennan Hunter of Metro briefly described inclusive park designs and entrances to facilities to make parks feel more welcoming to community members.

2. 2015 URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT DECISION: PLANNING A RANGE FORECAST FOR POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

- Mr. John Williams of Metro stated that the purpose of the presentation is to provide Council with the opportunity to discuss one of the growth management topics that it and MPAC identified for further discussion: planning within a range forecast for population and employment.
- Mr. Ted Reid of Metro explained why a range forecast is being used for population and employment growth. When forecasting 20 years out into the future, there is uncertainty when trying to predict future demographics and employment growth leading to a range forecast, however the Metro Council does need to decide on a specific rate of growth.
- The general expectation is people will continue to move to the region and start families, but the growth rate will slow and become lower. This is due to an aging population, lower birthrates and deferred age of having children.
- The low-end growth rate of the forecast is .9%, mid-point growth rate is 1.8%, and high end is 2.3%

Council Discussion:

- Councilors Carlotta Collette and Sam Chase discussed how climate change may play a significant role in the Portland regions population growth. While it is difficult to find data and information on migration and population change in regards to climate change occurring in the present, a more volatile future climate may induce migration into the Pacific Northwest with its more stable climate and water supplies.
 - Mr. Dennis Yee of Metro added that Metro's GIS department is looking at temperature and precipitation changes into the future and how Portland's climate will be altered and how water supplies will be impacted. They are also looking at where people who moved to Portland in the past came from and the future climate predictions of those regions. This can help forecast where possible future climate refugees will come from and their demographics.
- Councilor Shirley Craddick inquired about why the Portland region's wages are forecasted to not keep up with other metropolitan areas even though the region has been recovering since the recession.
 - Mr. Williams explained that this is an assessment of what will most likely happen and not necessarily what people and agencies want to happen. Increased migration from young, college educated people will continue to drive demand for professional jobs, which may not keep up with population growth.
- Councilor Kathryn Harrington supports the middle to high range growth forecasts and noted the importance of looking at the movement of people. Regional climates can impact the cost of living and the Portland regions relatively mild climate is attractive to people living in more extreme climates. It is important to plan for all segments of the population to grow as there is an aging group, but also many young people are moving into the region and will have children.
- Councilor Craig Dirksen mentioned that some of the recently increased population growth and migration may be occurring because the economy is rebounding from the recession and the people who wanted to move in the past, but couldn't, are now able to now or feel more confident. A large amount of people move to the Portland region because they like the region and look for jobs after they've moved.
- Mr. Williams added that in making these population and employment forecasts it is important to look at the demographics of the people who are moving into the Portland region.
- Councilor Collette inquired as to why the employment range in the forecast is wider than the population range.
 - Mr. Yee answered that it is more difficult to make economic forecasts than demographic forecasts as there are many externalities that impact economic growth.

3. DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR YEAR 3 OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS LEVY

- Ms. Brennan-Hunter of Metro announced that the 2013 Parks and Natural Areas levy calls for an annual work plan to be approved by Metro's COO. The presentation will review the work plan for the year ahead, including how upcoming work fits with investments in years 1 and 2.
- Major projects identified for the FY 2015-16 are:
 - Restoring Natural Areas of Wildlife, Fish and Water Quality
 - Improving Parks and Natural Areas for People
 - Regional Operations

- Improving Natural Areas for People
- Volunteer Services
- Conservation Education
- Nature in Neighborhoods Community Grants
- Restoration Category

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Harrington inquired about where Metro received a grant from for a conceptual design for improved play experience at Oxbow Regional Park.
 - Ms. Brennan-Hunter answered that this grant was awarded to Metro by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.
- Councilor Craddick inquired about any foreseeable land use processes challenges in future projects.
 - Ms. Brennan-Hunter answered that there will be challenges as the projects develop, in particular for some of the access projects.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Chase announced that he and other Metro staff participated in the Portland Pride Parade on Sunday, June 14th.
- Councilor Collette spoke about the Oregon City Enhancement Program and the applications received for it. The program will encompass restoration of habitats, city park work, and job fairs.
- Councilor Dirksen participated in a conference call with Transportation for America on Friday, June 12th. Discussion topics included changing how federal money is distributed around the state and funding for Connect Oregon.
- Councilor Craddick passed around an invitation to the Portland Actors Ensemble to see Macbeth from June 18th through July 25th.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE. 16, 2015

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
4.0	Handout	06/16/15	What's New for the Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	062165cw-01
4.0	Handout	06/16/15	Oregon Public Transportation Plan	062165cw-02
4.0	Invitation	06/16/15	Portland Actors Ensemble present Macbeth	062165cw-03