

METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, August 3, 1998

Council Annex

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Ruth McFarland

Members Absent: Rod Monroe

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

2. WORK SESSION ON METRO AGENDA FOR 1999 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Chair McLain said the purpose of the work session is to conclude the previous conversations on Metro's legislative priorities for the upcoming session. She asked Michael Morrissey, Senior Council Analyst, for a report on the last Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Morrissey gave a brief summary of the last JPACT Finance Subcommittee meeting. He concluded that a transportation package will only pass if the business community takes the lead. He said he does not recall a recommendation for action at the meeting.

Chair McLain said she expects the transportation package will be discussed at the next JPACT meeting.

Mike Burton, Metro Executive Officer, said he has discussed a transportation package with the Governor's office, department staff, and the chair of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). He said the Governor has indicated that he would support using general fund money to help disabled and senior citizens, and using a gas tax for maintenance and preservation. He said staff and ODOT support a two-stage approach that first addresses maintenance and preservation, followed by modernization. He said given the tenor of the Oregon Senate, ODOT should be kept in the background. He said he has directed Andy Cotugno, Director of the Transportation Department, to identify the needs and consequences of not meeting those needs, and then ask the Legislature for whatever funds it will appropriate.

Chair McLain said she agrees. She recommended putting together an information package and inviting legislators to attend a meeting on growth planning funding and transportation funding.

Executive Officer Burton said if the goal is to get the legislators involved and informed, it is better for them to receive the message from the business community. He said staff can gather information, and then determine how to best convey the information to the public, so that citizens understand how seriously the state is on the edge of a transportation crisis. He said one of the lobbyist's tasks should be to take the list of transportation needs and meet with the individual legislators. He said Metro needs to fully support any effort made by the Associated Oregon Industries (AOI).

Mr. Cotugno said the Transportation Department is producing a newsletter to describe the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which will sent to the general public.

Mr. Morrissey said in addition to legislators, the lobbyist may wish to identify other target groups, such as businesses. Chair McLain agreed.

Executive Officer Burton recommended a meeting of Metro staff and other organizations to clarify each group's role.

Chair McLain said Metro needs to coordinate its strategy for salmon funding.

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Executive Officer Burton said he has asked county sheriffs to help him put together a steering committee from the three counties to identify major strategies by January. He said he is soliciting outside funds for a staff position for salmon.

Chair McLain said the work on State Goal 5 by the Water Resource Policy Advisory Committee (WRPAC) should address both Goal 5 and strategies necessary to address salmon. Executive Officer Burton agreed. Chair McLain said it is important for Metro to demonstrate a model of its internal coordination. She recommended submitting a report to WRPAC.

Mr. Morrissey said the information in the agenda packet implies that the Governor is designating money for the Coastal Coho Recovery Plan, and if so, Metro may be able to tag on with money for steelhead trout listing. He asked if that was correct.

Executive Officer Burton said within the Coastal Coho Recovery Plan, there is an imposed tax on the timber industry to pay for habitat restoration. He said the requirement ended with the coho listing, but the timber industry has indicated that it wishes to continue the tax. He said he does not know yet if the steering committee's salmon plan will require funding, but it probably will.

Councilor McFarland said it is essential to address water quality within the urban area, because pollutants from the cities can negate any habitat restoration efforts upstream and downstream. Executive Officer Burton said Metro may wish to consider expanding public education and recognition programs about fertilizer and insecticide pollution.

Chair McLain said salmon funding relates to watershed planning, and should be addressed in an holistic manner. Executive Officer Burton agreed, and directed Randy Ealy, Executive Analyst, to learn if the watershed councils have a funding strategy. He recommended that Metro support the watershed councils' efforts.

Chair McLain asked Meg Bushman, Council Analyst, for an update on the Civic Stadium rehabilitation. Ms. Bushman said she drafted a resolution, which will go to the Council Regional Facilities Committee for consideration.

Chair McLain said the resolution should reflect that the Civic Stadium is not Metro's top priority for funding. She said there needs to be complementary resolutions from other jurisdictions.

Councilor McFarland asked if Metro is limited to sources of funding in its requests for state funding. She said lottery money could be applied to the Civic Stadium, but she wondered if the same was true for Metro's other legislative priorities.

Executive Officer Burton said 50% of lottery revenue may be used for any type of economic development, unless a constitutional amendment passes in November to apply 15% of lottery revenue to parks. He said the Governor has asked Metro and the City of Portland to demonstrate how the Civic Stadium benefits the entire state.

Chair McLain said in the past month, the committee has developed a short list of legislative priorities and directions for the lobbyist.

Mr. Ealy said the selection committee will interview lobbyist candidates on August 13, 1998 from 9:15 A.M. to 1:15 A.M.

Executive Officer Burton said the Governor's staff has expressed interest in including a state growth fund in the Governor's budget. He said he is encouraging the Governor to include the concept of a state investment fund for the future that begins to address the needs for planning and infrastructure of local jurisdictions to manage their respective levels and rates of growth. He said the idea is to create a revolving fund, loan fund, or grant program. He said the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) is also working on this issue.

Chair McLain asked Mr. Ealy to invite the lobbyist to the next Governmental Affairs meeting in September.

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Executive Officer Burton said in the past, he and two Council members served as the lobbyist's contact points, and then there was a telephone tree. He said the process worked well.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE JULY 20, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion:

Councilor McFarland moved to adopt the minutes of the July 20, 1998, Governmental Affairs Committee meeting.

Vote:

Councilors McFarland and McLain voted aye. Councilor Monroe was absent. The vote was 2/0 in favor and the motion passed.

3. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers
Council Assistant

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