



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Carlotta Collette

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 Metro Council on a change to the February 18th Council Meeting agenda, and the upcoming deadlines for public comment on Regional Flexible Funds, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Draft Equity Strategy. Ms Bennett also announced the Regional Snapshot presentation on February 17, and noted the success of the recent Elephantastic event at the Oregon Zoo.

2. HOUSING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Elissa Gertler, Metro's Director of Planning and Development, and Emily Lieb, Metro staff, presented on the Housing Planning and Development Grant Program (HPDG). Ms. Lieb provided a brief review of the Equitable Housing Leadership Summit and discussed the proposed HPDG program, which would utilize policies from the existing Community Planning & Development Grant (CPDG) program and adapt them to focus on equitable housing projects. Ms. Lieb identified two categories of projects that would be eligible for the grant program: redevelopment work on potential housing development sites in Title 6 areas where a willing partner has been identified, and evaluation and development of tools to support modification of local code, zoning, or permitting processes to eliminate barriers to equitable housing development. Ms. Lieb, Ms. Gertler, and Ms. Bennett discussed the potential grant sizes based on the current unallocated Cycle 4 CPDG funds. Ms. Lieb reviewed the anticipated timeline and expected outcome of the grant program, and requested Council feedback.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed the need to ensure that the criterion for projects needs to be clear and results-oriented, and highlighted the importance of equitable housing projects being distributed evenly throughout the region. Councilor Stacey advised adding additional language specific to equitable housing to the first eligible projects category. Councilor Dirksen emphasized that the draft selection criteria would need to address the equitable housing issue and weigh applications to see which would best meet the needs identified. President Hughes noted that jurisdictions would already

need to be receptive to the idea of equitable housing in order to apply for and receive the grant funds, and raised concerns that this program could cause equitable housing projects to become concentrated in some communities and nonexistent in others. He also suggested allowing nonprofits the authority to move equitable housing projects forward when local jurisdictions may not be willing to. Councilor Chase noted that past housing subsidies have turned out to be great benefits to communities. He also highlighted the original vision for equitable housing work, which was to affect housing development on the ground through work with local jurisdictions, and advised that the selection committee be made up of people who understand how to get projects on the ground. Ms. Gertler noted that the program would be grounded in the equitable housing work that has been done with current partners over last year. Councilor Harrington raised questions about the anticipated outcomes of the HPDG program, and regarding the Title 6 areas, spoke to the importance of creating integrated neighborhoods and not overburdening already overcrowded centers. Councilor Craddick inquired about Title 6 designations and the rules regarding using Construction Excise Tax (CET) funds for HPDG projects. She also spoke to the need to develop an outreach plan because equitable housing will mean different things to different people, and raised questions about the connection between equitable housing and the homelessness issue. Ms. Gertler explained that that the inclusion of Title 6 criteria is based on the definition of equitable housing, which includes access to transit.

3. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Nathan Sykes, Deputy Metro Attorney, updated the Council on the Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement for the proposed business payroll tax for Portland State University scholarships, instructors, and advisors. Mr. Sykes also discussed the Oregon Convention Center Hotel Development & Finance Agreement, improvements to the equity in contracting program, the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Willamette Falls Legacy Project, Parks and Nature code updates, proposed changes to the Metro Code Title V, waste management contracts, working with Payment Card Industry (PCI) to reduce liability for employee purchase cards, and the 2016 Legislative Session.

4. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Dirksen shared a request from Teach for America for support for a measure for accessibility, and updated Council on the most recent Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) meeting, including the staff's breakdown of the FAST Act. Council and Ms. Bennett discussed the proposed Transit Expansion Fund. Councilor Harrington updated the Council on the Local Government Commission luncheon and the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference. Councilor Craddick discussed the City of Damascus' upcoming vote for disincorporation, which has been moved up to May, and noted the complexities regarding taxation that the de-annexations are causing. President Hughes announced that the Living Cully Group has requested additional funds to complete Cully Park and Council noted their support for the project. President Hughes also discussed the legislative session, including lifting the preemption on inclusionary zoning, Urban Growth Boundary expansion for affordable housing, and strengthening renter's protection. Council and Ms. Bennett discussed the potential outcomes of lifting inclusionary zoning in other local jurisdictions. Council also discussed House Bill 484 regarding brownfields, the amendment of the wetlands restoration bill, and the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT).

5. **ADIURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kyra Schneider".

Kyra Schneider, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
3.0	Handout	2/12/2016	Ballot Title and Explanatory Statement for Proposed Metro Initiative	021616cw-01