



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2016
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

Councilors Excused: None

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 most recent edition of Our Big Backyard, an invitation to participate in a discussion about the results of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) cultural compass survey, the upcoming Canemah Bluff tour, and the location and minor agenda change for the upcoming Metro Council meeting. Ms. Bennett also noted that there will likely be media coverage on the results of the most recent Powell-Division Steering Committee meeting.

2. NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS, TITLE 13 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Ms. Heather Nelson Kent and Mr. Tim O'Brien, Metro staff, presented on the Nature in Neighborhoods, Title 13 Performance Measures. Mr. O'Brien provided a brief history of the Title 13 public engagement process and reviewed the project's vision statement and three-step planning process. He also discussed the development standards for Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs), noted that Title 13 does not prohibit impacts to the HCAs, and reviewed the five compliance alternatives to Title 13 as well as additional protection strategies. Ms. Nelson Kent noted that more land is currently being protected through local compliance adoptions than is designated as a HCA by Metro. Council inquired about the definition of HCAs and the boundaries of the Tualatin Basin Natural Resources Coordinating Committee. Mr. O'Brien discussed the environmental indicators used to measure Title 13 performance, and noted that jurisdictions are required to report every two years. Ms. Nelson Kent added that measuring tree canopy is not a requirement, but that it was added as a performance indicator as a tool to measure performance. Councilor Chase inquired about how to understand local impacts and whether the performance of some jurisdictions skews

regional measurements. Ms. Nelson Kent reviewed the project's next steps, and recommended that Council consider updating the code requiring local jurisdictions to provide performance measures every two years to extend the time between updates.

Council Discussion:

Council discussed the strategies presented in the Parks and Nature System Plan and how to best use limited resources and staff time to implement some of those strategies. They advised staff to work with external partners and local jurisdictions to develop better performance measures, and agreed that extending the time between performance reports to five years would be beneficial. Councilors acknowledged that the region was in an economic recession during the previous analysis, which could have reduced the amount of habitat loss, and that there could be a need to develop additional regulations as development increases. Council also raised concerns about the use of tree canopy to measure performance because it doesn't distinguish between tree canopy and habitat. Councilor Dirksen discussed the challenge of measuring performance due to improvements in the technology used over time and noted that an increase in tree canopy can occur as a result of development. He also raised questions about whether there is an absolute loss requirement that will eventually be reached, and inquired about performance reporting requirements for Nature in Neighborhoods (NIN) grants. Ms. Bennett highlighted the need for a stronger link between Title 13 goals and NIN grant criteria and performance tracking, and noted that there are conflicts between habitat protection goals and urban development goals. Council President Hughes added that complex reporting requirements for NIN grants could cause more funds to be spent on reporting rather than work. Councilor Stacey spoke to the importance of creating connective corridors between riparian and upland areas, and Councilor Craddick spoke to the need to set goals and develop a plan for the future of the region.

3. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Alison Kean, Metro Attorney, updated the Council on the Portland Business Alliance's challenge of the Portland State University payroll tax initiative, a lawsuit involving the City of Gresham regarding timber trespass on Metro property, the Cycle 4 Construction Excise Tax (CET) Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and Community Planning and Development Grant (CPDG) IGAs, closing on various grant and real estate transactions, upcoming changes to the Metro code, and work with the City of Damascus regarding the issue of deannexation.

4. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Collette discussed a proposed partnership with the City of Lake Oswego to purchase land in a Metro natural areas target area, Councilor Stacey provided updates on the most recent Regional Snapshots speaker Janette Sadik-Khan and the community conversation about the draft Strategic Plan to Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) Africa House, Councilor Dirksen updated Council on the ConnectOregon VI grants and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 1 Area Commission on

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Transportation (ACT) recommendations, and Council President Hughes recalled the White House Business Council briefing with K&L Gates LLP, the Export Council of Oregon, and Business Forward.

5. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyra Schneider", written in a cursive style.

Kyra Schneider, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2016

There were none.