

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 2005
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Deputy Council President Rex Burkholder, Rod Park, Robert Liberty, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: David Bragdon (excused), Carl Hosticka (excused), Susan McLain (excused)

Deputy Council President Burkholder convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

1. **DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JUNE 9, 2005/ ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Stacey Triplett, will manage the Nature in Neighborhoods project. He added that the main topic of the Council Retreat would be the Parks bond issue. He had reserved an hour to discuss the continuation of the engagement with the mayors. He suggested that the Council engage on how it related to Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and to the other regional elected officials. He would also like to meet with Councilors individually to lay the groundwork.

Cary Stacey, Executive Assistant to the President, updated the Council about the Open Spaces Celebration. They were launching a speaking tour on the celebration. She detailed what they would be covering in the speaking engagements. The first engagement was June 21st. Councilor Burkholder asked about talking about a bond measure. Mr. Jordan said, as elected officials, they had to opportunity to talk about anything they wanted. There were limitations about promotion of bond measure itself. Councilor Liberty talked about his role in promoting the bond measure. Dan Cooper, Metro Attorney, responded that after the measure was on the ballot, Councilors were free to speak about the ballot. It was the use of public resources that was prohibited. He further clarified what they could say and staffs' limitation.

Deputy Council President Burkholder reviewed the Metro Council meeting agenda for June 9, 2005. Councilor Newman asked about the rate stabilization reserve and then noted they would be discussing that later in the agenda.

2. **CONSERVATION PRESENTATION**

Mike Keele, Oregon Zoo, said they would be talking about Metro conservation efforts. He gave examples of the different conservation projects that the Zoo was participating in. They would be talking about their regional conservation efforts. He said conservation had evolved at the Zoo particularly regionally. He spoke to the hands on experience that both paid and volunteer staff participated in. Mary Jo Andersen would be talking about the northwest butterfly conservation effort. She was considered a national expert on butterflies. He spoke to her training efforts for this program. David Shepherdson would be talking about the head start program for western pond turtles. Blair Csuti would provide an overview of the pigmy rabbit conservation project. Karen Lewis would cover the Kincaid lupine conservation project. Ms. Andersen talked about the butterfly project. She provided a power point presentation on the program (a copy of which is

included in the meeting record). She talked about the different endangered butterfly species and the success of the program to date. She noted the partners that they worked with such as United States Fish and Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy, etc. She talked about her interns, which had come primarily from Saturday Academy. She then addressed issues such as what the caterpillars eat, their life cycle, hibernation patterns as well as conditions for hatching and releasing. Mr. Shepherdson talked about the pond turtle program. He noted primary threats to the turtles such as predators, which included bullfrogs and declining wetlands. He explained how they radio tracked the females to identify the nests to find the hatchlings. They raised the hatchlings for nine months at the Zoo and then released them into the Columbia Gorge. They also did census surveys of Oregon Spotted frogs. Mr. Csuti provided an overview of the Columbia Basin pigmy rabbits. The populations had been declining. The rabbits had never been raised in captivity. They had successfully raised pigmy rabbits to be released into the wild. They had developed mini-habitats. They discovered that they were the only rabbits that dug burrows to have their babies. The rabbits had repressed immune systems because of the smallness of the populations and the fact that they had a lot of inbreeding, Councilor Newman asked about partnering with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W). Mr. Csuti talked about their current efforts with ODF&W. Ms. Lewis briefed them about the Kincaid's lupine, a native prairie plant and the restoration efforts.

Councilors talked about conservation efforts at the Zoo and made some suggestions about the program. Staff discussed opportunities for Nature in Neighborhoods experiences at the Zoo. Deputy Council President Burkholder challenged staff to look at changing behaviors. They talked about the education that was necessary to enhance the programs.

3. BREAK

4. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE OF RECOVERY RATE STABILIZATION RESERVE
5. DISCUSSION OF RECOVERY RATE STABILIZATION RESERVE
RESOLUTION NOS 05-3580, 3594, 3595 AND 2005-06 PROPOSED BUDGET
AMENDMENTS

Deputy Council President Burkholder suggested combining items 4 and 5. He noted the page titled General Fund recovery rate stabilization reserve. He clarified Resolution No. 05-3595, which put the money into a general fund reserve if Council wasn't able to make a decision about how the money should be spent. He explained Resolution No. 05-3594 which was already in the budget as unfunded.

Councilor Park reviewed the page titled, "establishing a Metro Council Grant Program to support the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative". He talked about the general fund, 80%, which came from solid waste. He spoke to the consolidation of the general fund over the past year. He talked about how we created incentives for restoration. He talked about the illegal dumping sites and the need to increase the program. How did you link with what we did in the solid waste department with Nature in Neighborhoods? He noted a map, which showed mapped habitat areas, illegal dumping sites and the park system. He felt there was a correlation between the three areas. He spoke to the necessary behavior changes and getting people to look at these areas differently. This was an opportunity to put funds into the program. He spoke to partnership links between haulers and environmentalists. This was a way to create new links to do the restoration projects. The idea was to have a two-year grant program administered by the Nature in Neighborhoods team. Deputy Council President Burkholder talked about methods. There was still work to be done in terms of the projects the Council would like to see done. How did the Council put their mark on this as a whole? Councilor Newman asked by taking this action, all \$1 million would be put into the grant program not for administrative use. Jim Desmond, Regional Parks and Greenspaces

Director, said that was his assumption as well. He felt that with the existing expertise in the building we could pull this off internally. The administrative part would be based on how the program was developed. Heather Nelson Kent, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, explained that the current position they had in the Parks department was federally funded and the position would go away in December 2005, it could not be used for this program. Councilor Newman asked about the Nature Friendly label for the haulers. Would there be a certification? Councilor Park responded to his question. Deputy Council President Burkholder addressed Resolution No. 05-3594, which, was to transfer money into a reserve to fund renewal and replacement. Councilor Liberty asked about the procedure for considering these resolutions. Councilor Newman clarified Resolution No. 05-3595.

Bill Stringer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) talked about the improved rating of the solid waste bonds and the Tax Supervision and Conservation Commission public hearing. He reviewed the amendments that would be considered at the June 9th meeting. Mr. Desmond explained General Amendment 8. Councilors discussed the process and the need for the coordinating position.

6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Cooper briefed the Council on SB 245 and Measure 37.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Deputy Council President Burkholder adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Prepared by,

Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2005

Item	Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	6/9/05	Metro Council Agenda for June 9, 2005	060705c-01
4	Fact sheet	6/7/05	To: Metro Council From: Karen Feher, Financial Planning Department Re: General Fund Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve Requested Uses and Actions Necessary for implementation FY 2004-05 and FY 2005-06	060705c-02
4	Talking points	6/7/05	To: Metro Council From: Councilor Park Re: Establishing a Metro Council Grant Program to support its Nature in Neighborhoods Initiative	060705c-03
4	Resolution No. 05-3580	6/7/05	To: Metro Council From: Councilor Park Re: Resolution NO. 05-3580	060705c-04
1	Post card	6/7/05	To: Metro Council From: Cary Stacey, Council Office Re: Openspaces Celebration postcard	060705c-05
2	Power Point Presentation	6/7/05	To: Metro Council From: Mike Keele, Oregon Zoo Re: Power point presentation on Zoo's conservation efforts	060705c-06