



## **METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2016

Oregon Zoo, Skyline Room

**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 2:04 p.m.

### **1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett thanked the Oregon Zoo for hosting the work session, and provided updates on the record attendance at Blue Lake Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, three termination notices from the City of Damascus, and three Metro employees who were accepted into the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber's Leadership Program.

### **2. OREGON ZOO FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT TO METRO COUNCIL**

Mr. Rob Erikson, Oregon Zoo Foundation Board Chair, and Ms. Kim Overhage, Oregon Zoo Foundation Board member, presented the Oregon Zoo Foundation Annual Report to Metro Council. Ms. Overhage introduced Ms. Jody Brassfield, the incoming interim director, as well as Rob Erikson, board chair, Mr. Craig Norris, vice chair, and Mr. Pete Norman, Ms. Sharla Settlemier, Mr. Scott Powers, Ms. Kim Van Syoc, and Nancy Hinnen. Mr. Erikson thanked the Council for the opportunity to present and spoke to the Oregon Zoo Foundation's mission of fostering community pride and involvement in the Oregon Zoo, and to secure funding for conservation, education, and animal welfare. He highlighted the Foundation's high rating on the Charity Navigator website, and emphasized the importance of maintaining alignment with the Oregon Zoo and its strategic priorities. He noted that the Oregon Zoo has provided over \$60 million in contributions to the Oregon Zoo.

Ms. Overhage reviewed two of the Foundation's large capital campaign's, including Elephant Lands and the Education Center. She discussed the campaign to support conservation education, noting that the campaign exceeded its goal, and provided a brief update on the grants received as part of the conservation education campaign. Mr. Erikson spoke to the Zoo's role in conducting research on

climate change relating to the impact on polar bears, and discussed the metabolic swim chamber that will be part of the new polar bear exhibit. He highlighted the foundation's grant program that is available to Zoo staff to encourage innovation and fund projects that would not otherwise be available in the Zoo's budget. He highlighted several examples, including enhancements to the condor facility, scholarships to tier 1 schools for zoo school programs, and new flooring in the giraffe habitat. Ms. Overhage provided brief updates on the Foundation's four areas of advocacy, including support for the the Wildlife Trafficking Prevention Act, the decision not to pursue the Remote Elephant Center, Policy Option Package (POP) 144: California Condor Conservation and Management, and the Save Endangered Animals Oregon (SEAO) ballot initiative. She emphasized the importance of supporting POP 144 and requested that Metro add the measure to their upcoming legislative session. Mr. Erikson shared that the Board of Trustees has approved and established an endowment to support asian elephant conservation in the Oregon Zoo and abroad to prevent the species' extinction. He noted the other four endowments, including three for strategic areas and one for Predators of the Serengeti.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilors thanked the Foundation for their hard work and support of the Oregon Zoo. Councilor Harrington thanked Ms. Overhage for her work on POP 144 and spoke to the work being done in the Metro region being beneficial to other areas of the state as well. She also inquired about a species that was recently removed from the endangered species list. Councilor Collette spoke to the Oregon Zoo Foundation's passion and sophistication, and noted that she used the Foundation as an example when forming the Rediscover the Falls nonprofit group. Councilor Stacey thanked the Foundation for their leadership on the Asian elephant endowment, and highlighted Council President Hughes' work in linking the Oregon Zoo to refuges abroad. Councilor Craddick spoke to the challenges that the Foundation has overcome over the past year, and emphasized the passionate work of Ms. Overhage and Mr. Erikson. Councilor Chase recalled his time on the board, and attributed the success of the Foundation to the quality and passion of the people on the board. Councilor Dirksen spoke to the Oregon Zoo as a world class and community oriented venue, and spoke to the Foundation's work in maintain that status. Council President Hughes spoke to the highly skilled group of individuals that make up the board, and paid a special tribute to Ms. Overhage for her leadership. Ms. Bennett spoke to all of the transitions that have occurred under Ms. Overhage's leadership, and highlighted her dedication to the Oregon Zoo's mission. Ms. Overhage thanked Council and spoke to Mr. Erikson's ability to take the Foundation forward and ensure continuity.

**3. OREGON ZOO DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Dr. Don Moore thanked Councilors for the opportunity to present, and for joining him at the Oregon Zoo. He provided a brief update on several species that were recently removed from the endangered species list, and spoke to the Oregon Zoo's research work. He spoke to the Zoo's role in making the guests' experience the best it can be, and making animal welfare the best it can be, and shared his recommendation to start all meetings at the Oregon Zoo by discussing safety, animal welfare, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Dr. Moore reviewed some of the safety procedures that the Zoo is implementing, and provided updates on several new animal welfare programs. He thanked the Councilors for their support of DEI work and emphasized his intention to begin integrating policies from the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into the Zoo's internal programs. He spoke to several challenges that the Zoo is facing, including

some vacant and interim positions and communication issues within and between teams, and discussed his plans to overcome those challenges moving forward. He also provided a brief update on the Zoo's summer concert series, and the LEED gold certification of the new Elephant Lands exhibit. He reviewed the construction of the Education Center, noting the possibility of moving towards using renewable energy for the entire Zoo campus, and discussed the Zoo's Zoo Animal Presenters (ZAP) and Urban Nature Overnights (UNO) programs. Councilors, Ms. Bennett, and Dr. Moore discussed ways to improve the Zoo's DEI work moving forward. Dr. Moore also provided brief updates on the health of several of the Zoo's animals, recent achievements in species recovery, and the upcoming polar bear exhibit. He then gave a presentation on the history of zoos, both in Portland and across the world.

***Council Discussion:***

There was none.

**4. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

There were none.

**5. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyra Schneider, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 7, 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	07/07/2016	Oregon Zoo Foundation Board Bios	070716cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	07/07/2016	Oregon Zoo Foundation Board Briefing Sheet	070716cw-02
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	07/07/2016	Asian Elephant Endowment Fact Sheet	070716cw-03
<b>2.0</b>	Handout	07/07/2016	Condors Information Sheet	070716cw-04
<b>3.0</b>	PowerPoint	07/07/2016	Evolution of Zoos PowerPoint	070716cw-05