



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 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 2:04 p.m.

**1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, provided the following updates and announcements:

- There were closures at Metro Park facilities. There had been damage at several parks due to the last storm, and another storm was forecast. Most damage occurred in the eastern part of region. Arborists were clearing sites.
- The Nature in Neighborhoods grants presentation and celebration had been rescheduled to January.
- Deputy Director of Planning and Development John Williams Director would be leaving Metro.
- She thanked the Council for their flexibility and willingness to address time-sensitive items originally scheduled for the Thursday Council meeting in an emergency meeting following the work session. The emergency meeting had been scheduled in the event of a Council meeting cancellation due to inclement weather.

**2. OREGON ZOO UPDATE**

Mr. Don Moore, Oregon Zoo Director, discussed the zoo's progressive animal welfare work. Mr. Moore emphasized that the 125 million dollar bond approved by voters made current conservation efforts possible. He discussed elephant welfare research that supported the design of the zoo's Elephant Lands enclosure. He expanded on the benefits that the elephant herd had experienced since the opening of Elephant Lands, and stated that the upgrades to their habitat supported their physical and mental wellbeing. Mr. Moore discussed the Polar Passage project and how it would similarly support polar bear welfare and conservation research. Mr. Moore introduced new Oregon Zoo Deputy Director Sheri Horiszny, an expert in giraffe welfare and conservation. Ms. Horiszny discussed giraffes and plans for conservation efforts at the Oregon Zoo. She shared statistics with the Council: there were 97,000 giraffes left in the world, the population having experienced a 40 percent decline over the last decade. She stated that the largest threat to giraffes was people. She noted that while there were 545 giraffes in 102 zoos across North America, making them one of the most popular zoo animals, only 38 percent of zoos supported giraffe conservation efforts. Ms. Horiszny then discussed the potential initiation of a giraffe feeding program at the Oregon Zoo. She stated that a feeding program would: drive revenue that could fund conservation; enhance animal

welfare by offering the animals more choices and opportunities for enrichment; provide new shade, shelter, and heating and cooling options for giraffes and guests; and create powerful experiences for Oregon Zoo visitors.

***Council Discussion:***

Council President Hughes noted that an elephant at the zoo had contracted tuberculosis, and asked if an increase in human contact could lead to any health concerns for giraffes. Ms. Horiszny informed the Council that the health concerns surrounding elephant and human interaction did not apply to giraffes and humans. Councilor Chase voiced his support for conservation efforts and commented on the connection between poverty and animal poaching. He asked if conservation funding generated would go toward solving poaching issues or if it would be allocated strictly to research. Councilor Chase advocated for some of the conservation funding to go to communities most directly impacted by the loss of giraffes. Councilor Harrington thought a feeding program was an amazing opportunity to allow people to better identify with the animals. She stated that since becoming a Councilor, she had learned how much work went into the zoo animals' welfare, which enabled her to champion the zoo's programs. Councilor Dirksen had a question about the number of giraffe species that exist. Ms. Horiszny explained that giraffes are one species with several subspecies, and that all of the subspecies are now classified as threatened.

**3. ZOO BOND UPDATE**

Ms. Heidi Rahn, Zoo Bond Program Director, provided a bond program update. She announced that four of the eight bond projects had been completed, and all eight were scheduled for completion by the year 2020. She informed the Council that the Education Center design incorporated solar panels, and the zoo had received a Portland General Electric (PGE) renewable energy fund grant. Ms. Rahn shared that the remaining unallocated funds came from bond premiums, the Oregon Zoo Foundation, and bond project funds; there were 12 million dollars remaining in total. Ms. Rahn discussed the budget considerations, which included cost escalations, project modifications, and program administration. She discussed Polar Passage project modifications intended to improve animal welfare and visitor experiences, and shared a video showcasing the design. She stated that the expansion of saltwater pools in the project design along with other factors led to the design being over budget. Ms. Rahn discussed the budget allocation process. Staff would engage the Oregon Zoo Foundation and Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee prior to bringing budget allocation recommendations to the Metro Council. Ms. Rahn introduced the guiding principles of the Oversight Committee's development of budget recommendations: honor the budget approved in the original bond ballot measure; recommend funding allocations that align with the zoo's conservation goals; and be transparent with the public about any allocation modifications. Ms. Rahn sought Council feedback on the guiding principles.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Harrington approved of the guiding principles. She inquired about the earthquake readiness of the Polar Passage project. Ms. Rahn informed her that all zoo projects were built to withstand earthquakes. Councilor Chase had a question related to the Construction Careers Pathways Project (C2P2) and incorporating equity into zoo projects. Councilor Chase stated that it was a principle for the region to support equity and job access, and he wanted to see equity be part of the Polar Passage project. Councilor Collette supported the guiding principles presented and the addition of Chase's recommendation to factor equity into the principles. Councilor Craddick showed great appreciation for the draft design of Polar Passage. She asked if the salt water pools were considered back in 2008 when the original bond measure was approved. Ms. Rahn informed her

that a smaller scale version had been considered. Councilor Craddick expressed that instead of scaling the vision back due to budget constraints, she would like to find outside funding in order to make the current vision of Polar Passage a reality. Ms. Rahn said that the zoo would potentially be seeking corporate partners in an attempt to realize the current Polar Passage vision. Council President Hughes supported diversity and equity in upcoming zoo projects and their construction.

#### **4. EDUCATION CENTER PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMING**

Mr. Grant Spickelmier, Oregon Zoo Education Curator, introduced the new Education Center. He informed the Council that underlying the Education Center and its programming was the Metro Environmental Literacy Framework. According to Mr. Spickelmier, the Framework's purpose was to expand knowledge, build capacities, and inspire action on environmental issues. Mr. Spickelmier provided an overview of the Education Center and its amenities. He discussed programs and events that would occur in the Education Center space, including summer camps for children, overnight stays at the zoo, and K-12 school groups. The space was also intended to be used for catering and private events. He shared with the Council that the space would highlight numerous partnerships: guest speakers for summer camps, video presentations, trainings, and speaking engagements. Internal partners Property and Environmental Services (PES) and Parks and Nature would also be highlighted; PES had provided funding and support for the zoo's educational wildlife garden, and Parks and Nature had provided funding for an interactive guide to parks and natural areas. Other partners to be highlighted included U.S. Fish and Wildlife, through the Western Pond Turtle exhibit; the Intertwine Alliance, through summits that the Alliance would host at the zoo; Access Recreation; and Soul River Inc. Mr. Spickelmier discussed a time capsule that ZooTeens helped create.

#### ***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Craddick voiced her support for the new facility and programs. She asked how this program aligned with programming at other parks around the region, such as Oxbow Park. Mr. Spickelmier spoke to cross-promoting; the Oregon Zoo had started promoting Oxbow Park's salmon homecoming at the Zoo's salmon exhibit. Councilor Harrington expressed her excitement about the work and her appreciation for the Oregon Zoo Foundation. She had a question about the Environmental Literacy Framework and its potential value to teachers throughout the region. Mr. Spickelmier informed her of the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, which was a separate framework focused on K-12 education.

#### **5. COUNCILOR LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Councilor Chase discussed the Central Enhancement Committee's final funding decisions. Councilor Dirksen discussed a quarterly Oregon Metropolitan Planning Organization Consortium (OMPOC) meeting in Salem and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding. Councilor Harrington announced that both Chahelam Ridge events scheduled for December had been postponed until January due to weather, and that Orenco Woods Nature Park would also be re-opening in January. Councilor Stacey discussed the Powell-Division and Southwest Corridor projects. Councilor Chase announced that the upcoming Low Income Fare Task Force meeting had been postponed.

#### **6. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Taylor Unterberg", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Taylor Unterberg, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT NO.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	PowerPoint	12/13/2016	PowerPoint: Oregon Zoo Update	121316cw-01
<b>2.0</b>	PowerPoint	12/13/2016	PowerPoint: Giraffe Conservation and Welfare	121316cw-02
<b>3.0</b>	PowerPoint	12/13/2016	PowerPoint: Oregon Zoo Bond Program Update	121316cw-03
<b>3.0</b>	Handout	12/13/2016	Polar Passage Survey Results	121316cw-04
<b>4.0</b>	PowerPoint	12/13/2016	PowerPoint: Education Center Partnerships and Programming	121316cw-05
<b>5.0</b>	Handout	12/13/2016	Memo to Council	121316cw-06