

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

1:00 PM

Oregon Convention Center, VIP Suite B

Council retreat

1:00 Introduction and Background

Council President Hughes noted a quorum was present and called the Council Retreat to order at 1:07 p.m.

Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief overview of the agenda and explained that the primary purpose of the retreat was to review the financial condition of the agency and begin initial budgetary discussions to determine Council's direction on upcoming financial choices. Ms. Bennett shared a background of the budget process and highlighted the agency's higher level strategic goals and council-directed initiatives. Ms. Bennett explained that by discussing the Council's priorities for the years ahead, staff was better prepared to manage resource shortfalls and financial decisions as they developed.

Ms. Bennett provided an estimated timeline of Council initiatives. Councilors discussed the proposed phasing of Metro Council initiatives and the degree of Council participation needed in the projects. Items discussed included potential bonding measures, capital investments, affordable housing, low-income transit fares, and operational needs. Ms. Bennett noted that following the proposed timeline, solid waste items and long-term transportation funding would command much of the Council's attention in spring 2017.

Present: 7 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Carlotta Collette, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Kathryn Harrington, and Councilor Bob Stacey

2:00 Review Major Budget Decisions for 2017-2018

Mr. Tim Collier, Director of Metro's Finance and Regulatory Services, reviewed the five-year forecast for FY 2017-2018 through 2021-2022, including the projected deficit for the

general fund. He also provided five-year forecasts for the Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC), Oregon Zoo annual revenues and expenses, and estimated total tip fees. Mr. Collier noted that the budget was flat for FY 2017-2018. He explained forthcoming impacts on the budget including Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) payment increases, inflation, capital investment renewal and replacement, the Metro Charter's spending cap, and the upcoming completion of certain bonds. He added that positive budget impacts included the continuing growth of the transit lodging tax, static solid waste rates, strong Construction Excise Tax (CET) revenue, and the Parks and Natural Areas Levy, secured through 2023. Councilors discussed resource needs, finance strategies, and the financial impact of the November 2016 flood at the Metro Regional Center.

3:30 Next Steps

Ms. Bennett stated that given such financial conditions, it would be more difficult to fund all of the Council's priorities in the upcoming fiscal year. She noted that there were four outstanding requests for Council opportunity funds: 1) transportation funding strategy work, 2) apprenticeships for women in construction of the Oregon Convention Center hotel project, 3) continued participation in Levee Ready Columbia, and 4) a mini-float in the Rose Festival Parade. Councilors discussed the four requests and anticipated budget constraints. The Council confirmed that they would like to use the opportunity funds for the projects listed.

4:15 Debrief

Mr. Middaugh, Metro's Communications Director, discussed communication strategies for zoo-related items to help ensure emails were responded to in a timely manner.

4:30 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council retreat at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nellie Papsdorf".

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE REREAT OF JANUARY 31, 2017

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
2.0	Handout	1/31/2017	Draft Proposed Phasing of Council Initiatives	013117cr-01
3.0	Handout	1/31/2017	Fiscal Forecasts	013117cr-02
4.0	Handout	1/31/2017	Proposed Council Opportunity Fund Allocations	013117cr-03