

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, August 5, 2009
Room 270

NOTE: This meeting was not recorded.

Members present: Ben Dupree, JC Kizak, Gerritt Rosenthal, Malek Hall, Judy Andreen

Members excused: Segeni Mungai, Hal Ballard

Call to order, Review of agenda, Approval of meeting minutes for May 6 and July 1, 2009, Announcements:

Chair Ben Dupree called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The minutes for the May 6 and July 1, 2009 meetings were approved.

MCCI restructure

Proposed changes

- Bylaws

The revisions to the bylaws were reviewed and approved. A vote on the changes will occur at the September meeting.

Proposed changes to the committee structure, including adding professional outreach people from the three counties, changing the number of members representing each council district were reviewed and discussed. A concern was whether having the council handpick new members would give the appearance of a biased committee.

Motion:

Gerritt Rosenthal moved, with a second by Judy Andreen, to adopt the proposed committee changes.

Vote:

The vote was 5 aye/0 nay. The motion passed.

Jim Middaugh will meet with the Metro Attorney regarding a revised ordinance stating the changes. He will let the committee co-chairs know when the ordinance will go before the council so they can attend and respond to any questions the council may have.

- Comments on process from David Brandt

David reviewed his findings and analysis of his committee review. He distributed written copies of his reports. The committee will review the documents and make plans to implement some of the recommended changes.

- Brochure status

Since the perspective of the committee is changing, it is necessary to edit the brochure. Ben will begin edits and bring it to the committee at a future date.

Proposed MCCI work plan priorities

- Internal Metro reorganization

Jim Middaugh reported that Patty Unfred has been named community engagement manager. He said she is aware of the importance of coming to the MCCI early in a project and can be helpful communicating with departments. Karen Withrow is now a frontline public involvement supervisor under Patty. Pam

Peck is program communications manager (Sustainable Living, Recycle at Work. RTO, retail at the Zoo, facilities, i.e. Blue Lake Park, and other direct retail exposure to citizens. Janice Larson continues to be manager of internal communications and standards of practice.

This public involvement management team will be the main points of contact with departments and will be attending MCCI on a regular basis.

- Making the Greatest Place COO recommendations

Jim distributed some materials that will be posted to the Metro website and used as leave behind materials aimed at reminding people about public comment opportunities in September. A guide to Making the Greatest Place will go live on the website this night which can be printed on demand for local meetings and other information purposes.

He noted they are working with the Metro Attorney to develop a news feed, similar to blog, but they are struggling with some legal and security issues. It will be focused on Making the Greatest Place. We can use RSS technology and will push e-mails every 2 weeks. The goal is shorter and more frequent updates.

- COO podcast and other

Discussions have been taking place with Davis Hibbitts & Midghall regarding holding a large scale focus group once the Chief Operating Officer's Making the Greatest Place recommendations are out. A group of 30 to 50 people will come in for 3 or 4 hours to lean about and discuss the recommendations. The goal is to get a representative view of people across the region. The Metro Policy Advisory Committee and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation will observe as randomly selected folks work through the recommendations. The session will be videotaped.

There was committee discussion concerning whether the council will actually read the public comments and how they will be incorporated into a decision. If decision-makers are not required to read the comments there is not much point in taking them. The committee suggested that the handouts explain how the comments will be handled.

- Revamp public involvement in Metro budget process

The Senior Leadership Team is beginning work on the budget process for next fiscal year. The proposed budget will come out in the winter and will include guidance for council for the first time. Previously, the Chief Operating Officer presented a proposed budget and staff and the council made additions and cuts in a short period of time. This year the hope is to have the MCCI provide technical assistance for a public involvement strategy in the budget and for them to take a written recommendation about public involvement to the council by October. In November the committee will dig into the communication department's budget and come up with suggestions for transparency.

Clackamas County public input guidelines

Judy Andreen reported that the Clackamas County CCI had recently been solicited by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to review and make recommendations on good public involvement policy. The commissioners had been struggling with how much time to allow each person for citizen communication during their weekly meetings. The CCI recommendations to the commissioners included:

1. Allotted speaking time for each citizen should be 3 minutes. If speaking as part of a group, each person's testimony should be organized sequentially so the same testimony is not repeated by each group member.
2. If too many people want to testify on a given topic, the commissioners should consider having a second session on the subject.
3. Come up with a mission statement on how they view public commentary on their projects.
4. Need education for the public on how to present public testimony, maybe guidelines on the website.
5. Interactive listening on the part of the commissioners.

She welcomed additional suggestions from the MCCI.

Roundtable

JC said the Zoo concerts are going strong and she thought perhaps a kiosk or something near the admission line with informational brochures and/or other forms to relay information could be a good way to get Metro information out and comments in for the council.

Judy invited Margot Barnett, Washington Co. CPO coordinator sitting in on this meeting, to the Clackamas CCI meetings on the third Tuesday of the month.

Ben said he has changed jobs and is currently working for Brian Clem who is exploring a run for governor.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Dupree adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Cheryl Grant
Metro staff