

METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, September 14, 1998

Council Chamber

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Rod Monroe

Members Absent: Ruth McFarland

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:39 P.M.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 3, 1998 GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING.

Consideration of the August 3, 1998 Governmental Affairs Committee meeting minutes was delayed until the next meeting.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 98-2700, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING NOMINEE PHIL DREYER TO THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (MCCI).

Aleta Woodruff, 2143 NE 95th Pl, Portland OR, Vice Chair of MCCI, Chair of MCCI Nominating Committee, nominated Mr. Phil Dreyer, a semi-retired contractor, to represent District 7, Position 20 on the MCCI. She said he was a very able candidate and had been active on several committees in the region.

Councilor Monroe said he had known Mr. Dreyer for many years and felt he would do a good job.

Motion:

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| Councilor Monroe moved to accept the nomination of Phil Dreyer to the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI). |
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Vote:

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| The vote was 2 aye/0 nay/0 abstain in favor of the nomination. The motion passed. |
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3. DISCUSSION ON CHARTER REVIEW

Dan Cooper, General Counsel, said the concept of charter review was derived from some home rule charters written with provisions that mandated periodic review of the contents of the charter and provided a method for which proposed amendments or revisions to the charters would be presented to the voters for their consideration. He said there was no uniform requirement in Oregon law for charter review, it was a matter for local governments with home rule status to decide how, or if, they would conduct charter review. He said the Metro Charter had no requirement for periodic review. Under Oregon law the concept of amendment vs. revision of the state constitution had been around for years and the distinction between individual amendments and revisions to home rule charters was also carried forward in Oregon law. He said amendments to the state constitution or a charter were limited to single subjects. He said that was similar to the provision that a bill must relate to a single subject in order for it to be valid. He noted additional definition of that concept in the overturning of Measure 40 which was a series of amendments to the Oregon constitution that had something to do with crime and criminals and the rights of victims. The court didn't think they were all related and considered it a constitutional revision. Therefore, they threw it out on the grounds that it hadn't been properly placed in front of the voters. He said you could not initiate a revision to the state constitution or a home rule charter. As indicated by the Oregon constitution the initiatives were limited to amendments and amendments must relate to a single subject. He stated that the charter itself said the council should provide a procedure to revise the charter. The Council had done that by adopting an ordinance that dealt with election initiative and referendum issues. He said Council held the power to revise the charter and they could propose revisions to the charter provided they conducted at least 2 public hearings on the revisions with the second hearing at least 28 days after the first hearing. He said the Council also had the ability to provide a different procedure for revising the Metro charter by amending the ordinance.

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Chair McLain asked if they could have multiple amendments on single subjects.

Mr. Cooper said multiple amendments on a single subjects which would be voted on as separate ballot measures would not be considered as a revision to the charter but simply the referral of amendments. The council could either refer an amendment or each of those single amendments could be initiated by the electorate with separate petitions and signature gathering.

Councilor McLain asked about the MPAC rule and the role of the other committees. She asked how this fit in with the rest of the charter responsibilities.

Mr. Cooper said amendments to the charter could be proposed by Council and if there was a desire, the amendment could be referred by action of the Council.

Chair McLain said this introduction to the subject was because some councilors had been discussing the feasibility and desirability of such a review. Mr. Burton had also expressed an interest in looking at some of the issues. She invited the committee, if there was an interest, to review ideas through this committee structure. She remarked on comments she had heard that some folks wanted to wait until January to work on major decisions because they wanted the new membership on the council to have an opportunity to vote on it.

Councilor Monroe felt that with at least 3 new council members coming on it would be appropriate to wait for them before any action as forceful as a charter review and a major change in the structure of this government. He felt the new councilors should have an opportunity to participate. He said starting the process now could cause some serious splits in the council. He said it was nice to know the process now but with the transition coming to the council, the time to decide whether or not to delve into the issue of charter review was after the first of January.

Chair McLain asked if he would feel comfortable looking at the procedure and the potential as far as the scope vs. the specific issues.

Councilor Monroe said talking about the process and what could happen was okay, he didn't want to take any action until the new councilors were on board.

Chair McLain said she would like to have Councilor McFarland's input. She said as Chair it would be her focus to make sure they were set up in January to go forward with the issue and find out some of the limitations as well as the opportunities that might afford themselves here.

Meg Bushman Reinhold, Council Analyst asked the Pac/West Communication lobbyists to come forward and introduce themselves.

Mr. Paul Phillips, Co-Owner of Pac/West Communications, a public relations firm based in the Portland Metropolitan area, said they currently represented about 27 clients. He noted his 14 years of legislative and 20 years of consulting experience as well as his 5 years in the governor's office and stints at Nike and TVDC. He introduced Ray Phelps, Doug Riggs, Brian Krieg and Sean Smith who would also be working with Metro. He noted that Scott Ballo and his wife, Nancy, were not present but on the team. He said their company had 14 staff who, while they would not all be dedicated to Metro work, would be involved.

He referred to the 3 phases suggested in their proposal to Council. He said they were entering into the first phase now, the pre-election phase where they would let candidates from around the state know who and what Metro was and why it existed. Second was the post election phase where the parameters of who they would be dealing with in Salem next session would be narrowed down, and the third phase was the session phase. He believed the first 2 phases were as important as the third phase because if people did not know who you were or what you were about, the chances for them listening to you in the hectic session days was limited. He asked for direction from the committee for himself and his staff. He said they had reviewed the 1997 activity and the material put forth from this committee in August 1998 so they had a general idea of where they might be going. He said they believed this would be a difficult budget driven session. He wanted to make sure transportation, growth, water or land use policies would not be slighted and would be addressed to Council's satisfaction.

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Chair McLain thanked Pac/West for coming on such short notice. She had wanted the committee to have time to meet them and give them direction. She noted a list she handed out to the lobbyists that the Executive and the committee had worked on over the summer to prioritize some of the issues. She said Council, their advisory groups and the Executive Officer had talked about state funding for growth and specific growth needs such as infrastructure and the urban reserve planning needs in this regional community as well as the transportation needs they were already familiar with. She said they had hoped to bring some information from the subcommittees at Transportation and MPAC to help deal with issues and priorities. She said the salmon funding was very tied to their Title 3 work dealing with water quality and stream protection. She said they were interested in making sure they had the opportunity internally as well as statewide to streamline some of those requests and processes to make sure there was not redundancy of effort but a combined and organized effort from the regional and local areas. She said they had a particular interest in election costs since they had special status as a special service district and had to pay large election costs. They wanted to look into that to see if there was something efficient and practical to do for this government and the rate payers. She said they were interested in the watershed work that was being done and noted they had a lot of connections in that with their limited staff. She said the civic stadium was there with issues for the new civic stadium push. She said the committee is at Pac/West's disposal to help them understand Council's needs and issues well.

Councilor Monroe said he had known Mr. Phillips since he was in high school and commented that he had grown into a fine person with a tremendous record as a state legislator and now as a consultant. He said he was looking forward to working with him again. Councilor Monroe said during his previous tenure on the Metro Council he was the representative to the Special Districts Association. He said he found it useful, especially during the legislative session. He suggested even though they might not think the special districts association had a lot in common with the Metro Council, he found many times it gave him an opportunity to get support for some of the things important to Metro and also for Metro to lend support for things important to those special districts which were based primarily in the rural parts of the state. He said Metro was seen as Portland and urban and a lot of the legislative leaders had a bias against that. He said special districts associations helped bridge that bias. He encouraged Pac/West to keep a close relationship with that association and said he would help with that if he could. He said the boundary commission responsibilities that were being handed over to Metro and how that would be developed and structured would be extremely important to the entire region. He said if 2040 and the land use planning was going to work, they had to have money for transportation infrastructure. He hoped Pac/West would be successful in encouraging the legislature to come up with a transportation package that would provide the necessary resources to do responsible urban planning as well as for the needs of the rest of the state. He said it was not just a Portland area need. He said he was looking forward to working with Pac/West Communications.

Mr. Phillips asked if this committee was working with Greg Wolfe from the governor's office on the Growth Management Task Force.

Chair McLain said Mike Burton was the Metro member and Judie Hammerstad from MPAC was on that board.

Mr. Phillips asked if the committee was developing this as a package or did they mean anything at this stage was good. He said No. 98-729 document laid out challenges but did not say they wanted so much for this or so much for that.

Councilor Monroe said he was less concerned about the structure of it and where the money came from than he was that something positive happened. He said the legislative leadership had yet to be selected and until that happened the only thing reasonably certain was who the governor would be. He said the governor's leadership would be pretty important as transportation needs were at the top of his priority list and he had the flexibility to work with leadership of both parties and the special interest groups.

Chair McLain said she had attended Rail-Volution that morning and one of the things she got out of it was that they needed to "think outside the box" and not go to Salem just thinking about the familiar networks. She said it was important to protect those old friendships and partnerships but also to look for new ones. She said it was important to let them know Metro was not just there with a hand out to another agency. She said they would want Pac/West to talk to business as well as the legislature. They should talk to everyone involved in the process in Salem who they would see on a daily basis regarding all of these issues.

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Mr. Phillips said he thought LOC and AOC were equally important on a number of the issues but there were other coalitions available on some of these concerns. He said the potential impact of the salmon listing on the state was phenomenal and tremendously expensive to address. He said it hadn't begun to appear on the horizon yet it could be a huge issue. He said one issue he would need guidance on was the Civic Stadium.

Chair McLain recommended he speak with Councilor McFarland who had worked on that committee for the last 2 years. She suggested getting an appointment with her right away. She said this committee had agreed that it deserved support but each councilor would have a different priority for it. She suggested he get with Mark Williams and Councilor McFarland pretty quickly.

Councilor Monroe said there was a pretty thorough report that had been done with the recommendation. He noted that for years, national sports facilities had been being built on the fringe but now there seemed to be a reversal of that by putting new sports facilities in the inner city in transit-oriented areas. He saw some exciting potential and felt they needed to protect and enhance the resource that was already there in the Civic Stadium.

Chair McLain said there was a commitment to integration of the transportation and land use issues. She thought that had to do with facilities, also. She felt, as Councilor Monroe did, that it was a vital part of the system.

Mr. Phillips said his team had viewed their interview by the Council representatives, they had viewed it as an opportunity to interview Metro. He said he was not sure he wanted this contract if there was no real vision of what they wanted to achieve. The Civic Stadium was consistent with both the transportation and growth management side of it, how it all worked together was the intriguing part of it. He said it was important to agree as a group what that was going to be. He noted that the speaker and the president's office had encouraged different interest groups to file as many pre-session bills as possible so as this committee and others identified any housekeeping bills, as well as policy bills, they would get them drafted and approved by this mechanism as soon as possible.

Councilor Monroe said often Pac/West's greatest responsibility and success would not be in the bills Metro introduced but ones that other people introduced that were bad and destructive to what Metro felt about the state and region. He said they would be monitoring those to make sure they got a proper burial.

Chair McLain said they would want Pac/West to report when appropriate and possible. She said if they needed a quick response there would be a response that would come from a short list and she would work with the Presiding Officer and the Executive Officer to make sure they had the phone list which should include this committee, Mr. Burton and Presiding Officer Kvistad. She asked Ms. Bushman Reinhold to compile that list. She told Mr. Phillips he could come back to be on the agenda when he needed to.

Mr. Phillips said his office had a good system of communicating so if Council would appoint one person who could receive all of the information from Pac/West for distribution, they would do the same so the information would be readily available to everyone. He thought they should start working on agendas now.

Chair McLain said the Executive and the Council had indicated they wanted to be proactive and make sure Metro was a presence. She said their selection meant they thought Pac/West could do that for all 3 phases.

Councilor Monroe said he would come testify before committees or speak to legislators if they needed him to do so. He said it was important for consultants to know their clients were available. He felt it sometimes made a bigger impact when the client was present.

Mr. Phillips concurred. He said they could be a spokesperson at times but they were really there to monitor and set up the process and open the doors that needed to be opened. He said there would be times then Metro must be there to deliver the message. He said it was critical to remember that the success ratio went up with the level of participation from the clients.

Chair McLain reiterated that Councilor Monroe had pointed out they were and other Councilors would be willing to help as their flexibility of schedule would allow.

Mr. Phillips said he appreciated it. He wanted the process to move along fairly aggressively.

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4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

None.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Grant
Acting Council Assistant

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| Document Number | Document Date | Document Title | TO/FROM | RES/ORD |
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| 091498GM-01 | none | Legislative Issues for 1999 Session | Pac/West Communication s/Gov't Affairs Committee | n/a |