

**MINUTES OF THE
METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Monday, November 2, 1998

Council Chamber

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Ruth McFarland

Members Absent: Rod Monroe

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 3, 1998, AND SEPTEMBER 14, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to adopt the minutes of the August 3, 1998, and September 14, 1998, Governmental Affairs Committee meetings.

Vote: Councilors McFarland and McLain voted aye. Councilor Monroe was absent. The vote was 2/0 in favor and the motion passed.

2. DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 98-2552A, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

Chair McLain said she asked John Houser, Senior Councilor Analyst, to go through Resolution No. 98-2552A point by point and put a spreadsheet together that would be available for Councilors and the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI) to see what had and had not been accomplished from the resolution this year. She said for example, the Council has met with MCCI and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), but not with the other advisory committees, and she felt this was an area that needed improvement in the next year. She hoped as the committee reviewed the resolution they would put together a "to-do list" of similar concerns for 1999. She suggested they could amend the resolution if some of it seemed impractical.

Kay Durtschi, Chair, MCCI, said they had discussed some of these issues in MCCI, and she would write a report of their discussions if Chair McLain wished. She said evening meetings are necessary, and she has heard people ask for them many times, both at Metro and in other jurisdictions. She said until people know evening meetings are happening on a regular basis, however, they will not notice the announcements and attend.

Chair McLain asked if it would be possible to find out the attendance at previous evening meetings to see if the months selected in the resolution (February, May, July, September) were the best month in which to meet. She suggested changing the months for evening meeting to avoid the summer months.

Ms. Durtschi said MCCI meeting attendance is always lower in July and August, and June conflicts with the Rose Festival, so they tried to avoid that month also.

Councilor McFarland said mid-winter and icy roads definitely affect attendance, but in her opinion, controversial issues bring people out to meetings more than the month of the meeting.

Ms. Durtschi agreed. She asked for more notice to MCCI of any evening meetings so they could let their volunteers know far enough in advance to support the Council. She said there had been some problem in getting the word out about the last Hillsboro meeting. She said she has heard people in Clackamas County request a meeting in their area, and she suggested working with the new Councilor from that district after the election to make sure that happened.

Chair McLain asked if the party to recognize volunteers last December was well received.

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Ms. Durtschi said because the recognition party was brand new, some people did not realize they should have been there. She said more advance notice would have helped.

Chair McLain asked Suzanne Myers, Council Assistant, to work with Ms. Durtschi and Karen Withrow, Administrative Assistant, Office of Citizen Involvement, on this year's recognition. She said MCCI should not do all the work because the idea is to honor them and other volunteers for their efforts. She said it was not too early to get started now.

Ms. Myers said she believed Beth Anne Steele, Public Outreach Coordinator, and Emily Kaplan, Public Outreach Assistant, Council Outreach, organized the volunteer recognition party last year.

Councilor McLain asked Ms. Myers to ask the Presiding Officer and the Council Outreach Department if that help would be available this year.

Ms. Durtschi suggested honoring people in the field who have contributed an extraordinary amount in one way or another, but who may not be official committee members.

Chair McLain agreed and asked MCCI to begin compiling a list of worthy people.

Chair McLain said she supported the idea of meetings with Metro boards advisory groups because she felt there were Councilors who did not have much connection with these groups, and it could give the advisory groups a better understanding the Council's positions. She asked for Ms. Durtschi's opinion.

Ms. Durtschi agreed it was a good goal. She said it was difficult to get their members to the evening meeting in Hillsboro for their joint meeting with the Council due to a busy agenda the week before, but they had good representation of people from that district. She felt the Council had started to build a relationship with their members. She said MCCI's job is to carry the Council's business forward and it could do a better job through more intercommunication.

Chair McLain said there are still two to three Governmental Affairs meetings this year, and the committee could invite some of the advisory committees with which they had not met. She asked Ms. Myers to draft an invitation that indicated some possible topics the advisory groups may wish to discuss with the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Ms. Withrow thought it would be helpful if advisory groups provided the Council with some kind of status report before their joint meetings in order to create more interaction. She said the meetings would be more useful if the Councilors were prepared to offer feedback, suggestions, or goals. She said the Council could also ask an evaluative question to each advisory group.

Chair McLain said that was a good suggestion.

Ms. Durtschi agreed and said it helps to have some structure.

Chair McLain agreed. She asked if MCCI still desires to have a standing time slot on the Council agenda like MPAC.

Ms. Durtschi said she thought it would not be necessary, as MCCI can request to be on the agenda when necessary. She said the reason for the suggestion was to give MCCI more recognition, but she did not think they would use the time slot often. She said if MCCI's inclusion as a standing agenda item communicates to the public that Metro has citizen involvement, then it may be worthwhile.

Chair McLain said MPAC, the Auditor, and the Executive Officer all have standing time slots on the Council agenda but are not at every meeting.

Councilor McFarland said it may work to add MCCI as a standing agenda item.

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Chair McLain said the committee could suggest it to the Presiding Officer.

Councilor McFarland asked Aleta Woodruff, MCCI, for her suggestions on the resolution.

Ms. Woodruff said a number of people would have attended the volunteer recognition party but it was held too close to Christmas.

Chair McLain asked if January would be a better month to hold the party.

Ms. Woodruff said the weather in January can be difficult and icy roads could cancel the event at the last minute.

Chair McLain suggested the second week in December.

Ms. Woodruff said it was not her decision, but last year the party was held the week before Christmas and many people were too busy to come.

Chair McLain said they would talk with staff to find an earlier date.

Ms. Woodruff said it takes a lot of paper to have standing items on the agenda, and she did not know if it was worth the extra paper to have MCCI as a standing time slot.

Chair McLain said the Council may be able to use a different agenda style and save paper.

Ms. Woodruff said MCCI should be part of the Council agenda because it is a chartered committee. She said the item would not need to be lengthy, but it would give MCCI. She said MCCI would do its best to facilitate in any way.

Ms. Woodruff said John Fregonese, former Director, Growth Management Services, presented a slide show on current Metro issues at the last elected officials orientation. She said the slide show was very beneficial.

Chair McLain said that was a good suggestion and could be worked in easily. She said she sees no reason not to add MCCI to the Council agenda as a standing time slot.

Councilor McFarland said Ms. Steele has been making slide show presentations and has received copious praise for her efforts. She said Ms. Steele and Mr. Fregonese probably used a lot of the same material, and there were several staff members who could do give the presentation as well or better than the elected officials.

Ms. Woodruff said each department has very good slide shows and maybe it would be advantageous to show a few slides from each department to make a general Metro presentation. She said the last elected officials orientation was well attended. She noted that Clack County should be included.

Chair McLain said there were small groups discussions on funding last year, but budget funding should be included as a general topic.

Ms. Withrow said at the evening meeting in Hillsboro, she noticed a number of students taking notes on the proceedings. She said it would be a good idea if students could attend regular Council meetings, and from an MCCI perspective, it would give students a chance to be involved at a young age.

Chair McLain agreed and said she hopes the Outreach group could think of more ways to include that age group. She said she hoped to speak with Councilors McFarland and Monroe to see if they felt an amendment to Resolution No. 97-2552A may be warranted, or if the Council should concentrate on a different portion of Exhibit A in 1999.

Councilor McFarland asked if the committee would vote on the resolution.

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Chair McLain said Resolution No. 97-2552A was adopted last year and would remain on the books unless amended. She said one possible amendment would be concerning evening meetings. She said if the Council were to plan evening meetings by issue, it would need to look ahead at its work plan and predict issues. She said it would be difficult, but the Council always makes major decisions in the fall and at the end of the year.

Councilor McFarland said it is not possible to plan meetings around the weather, because bad weather is unpredictable.

Chair McLain said another option would be to decide on four or five evening meetings and then set a date as controversial issues arise. She said the Council would have a better idea of decision dates as it begins its work plans in March.

Councilor McFarland said looking at the list of Metro boards advisory groups, she felt Metro should have a member on the East County Transportation Management Committee.

Ms. Durtschi said Multnomah County has an east-side and west-side transportation management committees which include unincorporated parts of Multnomah County.

Councilor McFarland said someone from the Metro Council Transportation Planning Committee should be a member of the committee. She said she did not know if it is a chartered committee.

Chair McLain asked Ms. Myers to ask Michael Morrissey, Senior Council Analyst, and staff in the Transportation Department if there is a list of other transportation subcommittees and advisory committees not on the organizing ordinance. She said she would meet with staff and Councilors Monroe and McFarland to discuss possible actions they might want to take at the November 16 meeting.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 98-2721, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING A CITIZEN ALTERNATE TO THE METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 98-2721A.

A copy of Resolution No. 98-2721A is included in the meeting record.

Vote: Councilors McFarland and McLain voted yes. Councilor Monroe was absent. The vote was 2/0 in favor and the motion passed.

Councilor McFarland will carry Resolution No. 98-2721A to the full Metro Council.

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4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers
Council Assistant

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 1998

The following have been included as part of the official public record.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
Resolution No. 98-2721	10/12/98	Resolution No. 98-2721A and staff report	110298ga-01