

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, October 11, 2018

1:00 PM

Lake House, Blue Lake Regional Park

Council retreat

1:00 Introduction, Background and Purpose of the Day

Council President Hughes called the Metro Council retreat to order at 1:05 p.m. Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief introduction as to the purpose of the retreat and explain that she was requesting direction on the parks and nature regional investment strategy for staff to take back to the stakeholder tables.

Ms. Bennett introduced Mr. Jon Blasher and Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro staff, to provide background on the regional investment strategy. Mr. Blasher discussed the importance of a parks and nature regional investment strategy. Mr. Shaw gave an overview of recent polling of likely voters across the Portland metropolitan area on the parks and nature system. He explained that the parks system, water quality and habitat and fish protection were the issues voters valued most.

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

1:15 Update on Recent Public Engagement: Highlights and Themes

Ms. Bennett introduced Ms. Heather Nelson Kent, Metro staff, to provide a brief presentation on the public engagement process. Ms. Nelson Kent provided a summary of the stakeholder engagement process and shared how the process has shaped the investment framework. She explained that stakeholder tables were convened from the following communities: the conservation community, fellow park providers, the working lands community, Indigenous communities, historically marginalized communities and culturally specific communities. Ms. Nelson Kent then shared themes from the stakeholder table meetings.

Ms. Nelson Kent called on participants in the Indigenous community engagement to share key themes. Sequoia Beck explained the importance of protection of culturally specific land and plants including salmon, steelhead and lamprey and the protection of clean water and rare habitats. They also highlighted that park improvements should prioritize Indigenous community needs including gathering spaces and access to water. Sequoia Beck emphasized the need for building long standing relationships without taking from the community and giving back urban space for the practice of spirituality. Ms. Judy Bluehorse Skelton explained the importance of Indigenous land practices and co-managing lands. Mr. Gerard Rodriguez thanked Councilors for their consideration and asked Council to review the detailed report from the Indigenous community engagement meetings.

Ms. Nelson Kent introduced Ms. Mary Rose Navarro, Metro staff. Ms. Navarro discussed the cohort of community members and the community forums engagement process. She introduced Ms. Danielle Jones, from Kairos PDX, Ms. Malin Jimenez, from Verde, and Surabhi Mahajan, from Friends of Trees. Ms. Jones and Ms. Mahajan discussed some of the key themes that emerged from the community engagement process including the protection of culturally significant land, providing access and the protection of streams and riverbanks. Ms. Jimenez emphasized concerns from the community about displacement and the need for continued community engagement.

2:15 Break

2:25 Council Discussion: Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature

Ms. Bennett presented questions to Council regarding

timeline, criteria and scope of the regional investment strategy. Councilors discussed the timing of the proposed bond and considered the election cycle, economic trends and the timing of other potential bond measures. Councilors agreed that they preferred the November 2019 election for a potential parks bond measure.

Councilors discussed the scope of previous parks and nature investments and identified four program elements: acquisition, local share, grants and capital projects. Councilors also discussed the criteria for each of the program areas and how racial equity worked as a criteria for each of the identified program areas and also informed all aspects of the investments.

Councilors Dirksen, Harrington and Chase discussed various criteria for land acquisition including habitat connectivity, protecting headwaters, flood plain protection and completing the current system of natural areas.

Councilors discussed the interconnectivity of housing, transportation and parks and emphasized the importance of investing resources in projects where all three strategies intersected. They also expressed support of investments accomplishing a range of directives throughout the region.

Councilors outlined criteria for local share and discussed the ability of local jurisdictions to advance racial equity. They discussed urban parks and how local share could provide access to historically underserved communities. Councilor Stacey explained that local share was a mechanism for accomplishing the goals of access to nature and opportunities to connect for communities. Councilor Craddick highlighted the need for technical assistance and visioning expertise for some jurisdictional partners receiving

local share funding. Councilor Harrington explained trends in recreation and natural area management and recommended that Metro share best known practices with jurisdictional partners.

Councilors discussed capital projects including restoration and maintenance on projects set out in the 2013 levy and requested a list of project priorities. They reviewed how the trail system projects provided access and fit within the transportation agenda. Ms. Bennett noted that previous bond measure funding was most leveraged through the grant program investments.

3:45 Council Direction to Staff and Next Steps

Ms. Bennett thanked the Council for their thoughtful discussion and informed them that staff would take the outcomes of this discussion to the stakeholder tables. She outlined next steps and reviewed the timeline of stakeholder table meetings, development of a bond framework and Council consideration of the framework.

4:00 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sara Farrokhzadian, Legislative and Engagement
Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2018

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
4.0	Handout	08/1/2018	Parks and Nature Investment Two Page Information Sheet	101118c-01
4.0	Handout	09/14/2018	Impact Summary: Parks and Nature Capital Bonds	101118c-02
4.0	Handout	10/11/2018	Parks and Nature Racial Equity, Divesity and Inclusion Action Plan Executive Summary	101118c-03
4.0	Handout	09/13/2018	Parks and Nature Measure Framework: Stakeholder Table Member List	101118c-04
4.0	Handout	09/16/2018	Stakeholder Table Decision Making Protocol	101118c-05
4.0	Report	10/11/2018	Parks and Nature Bond Measure Community Forum Engagement Report	101118c-06
4.0	Report	10/11/2018	Parks and Nature Bond Measure Indigenous Community Engagement Report	101118c-07
4.0	Report	10/11/2018	Parks and Nature Bond Measure Conservation Community Engagement Report	101118c-08
4.0	Report	10/11/2018	Parks and Nature Bond Measure Local Agency Engagement Report	101118c-09
4.0	Handout	10/11/2018	Bond Summary Work Plan	101118c-10
4.0	Powerpoint	10/11/2018	Shaping a Parks and Nature Bond	101118c-11