

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

Monday, November 16, 1998

Council Chamber

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Ruth McFarland

Members Absent: Rod Monroe

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion:

Councilor McFarland moved to adopt of the November 2, 1998, Governmental Affairs meeting minutes.

Vote:

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

2. STATUS REPORT ON THE 1999 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ray Phelps, PacWest, introduced his team: Doug Riggs and Sean Smith. He identified four areas in which they need guidance from the Metro Council in order to effectively represent Metro at the 1999 session of the state legislative assembly: 1) general guidelines on the major issues of interest to Metro, 2) an agenda approved by the Council, 3) to whom they will report, and 4) the issues that are particularly important to each Councilor so he or she can be notified when those issues arise at the legislature. He said the tendency among elected officials is to want to be involved in everything, which is not very effective.

Mr. Phelps said it appears this legislative session will be primarily a budget session, and most issues will turn on budgeting. He said the legislature's politics will probably be moderate to conservative, and thus affect how legislation is gauged. He reviewed a proposal to increase the passport license that will be introduced in the session. He said he and his team are meeting with the governor's staff, the Homebuilders Association, and other public and private organizations to discuss Metro topics. He said overall, there appears to be interest among several groups to work with Metro as full partners in Salem.

Mr. Riggs said they look forward to working with Metro in a team effort. He said they have reviewed the list of legislative issues drafted by the Governmental Affairs Committee, and have talked with the other Metro Councilors and the Executive Officer. He said each member of their team will concentrate on one category of issues; he will concentrate on fish and water issues. He mentioned a task force that is forming to address fish, and said he has plans to meet with Tim Raphael, Executive Office Chief of Staff, to discuss these issues further.

Chair McLain said she is concerned about Title 3 of the Functional Plan and protecting what the Council adopted in Title 3. She asked Mr. Riggs to watch and listen for any legislation in Salem that might reduce the effectiveness or authority of Title 3.

Councilor McFarland asked if they have considered the argument that once a species has been listed as endangered and steps have been taken to protect its habitat, other species are indirectly protected as well. She said adding additional species to the endangered species list may not greatly increase the amount of work or funding necessary.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, November 16, 1998

Page 2

Mr. Riggs said yes, they had considered that. He said although the next session of the legislature will be moderate to conservative, there is agreement across the board that voluntary efforts are the best approach and positively affect all species.

Chair McLain asked Mr. Houser to write a memo addressing Mr. Phelps's four questions. She asked Mr. Houser to talk with Councilors Monroe and McFarland and said she would speak with Councilors Monroe and McFarland also, in addition to Presiding Officer Kvistad and the Councilors-elect.

Mr. Phelps said he and his team have also been reaching out to the Councilors-elect.

Chair McLain asked Mr. Riggs to discuss with Mr. Raphael the prison siting issue, as it is an issue in which Metro has an interest, though not responsibility.

Chair McLain said the Governmental Affairs Committee will meet again in December, which will allow Mr. Phelps and his team another opportunity for a forum if necessary. She said if the committee discusses a legislative package, she will invite other Councilors to attend and give feedback.

Mr. Phelps asked Chair McLain if she would like them to coordinate with Mr. Houser on potential legislative guidelines and legislative agenda so that the meeting in December will be productive.

Chair McLain and Mr. Houser agreed.

3. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION NO. 97-2552A, RELATING TO COUNCIL MEETINGS, MEETINGS WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEES, AND OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS

Chair McLain asked Mr. Houser to review his memo, a copy of which is included in the meeting record, and talk about his ideas on how the Council might improve implementation of Resolution No. 97-2552A.

Mr. Houser reviewed his memo. In order to ensure that evening meetings address issues that are of interest to the general public, he suggested that at the beginning of each quarter, the Council could identify upcoming issues in the next three months and if there are controversial issues, evening meetings could be scheduled. Secondly, Mr. Houser suggested that summer may be a good time to meet with advisory groups, as it is a slow time in terms of action items before the Council. He said it may be useful to have one advisory group attend a Council meeting each week and discuss its upcoming items in the next fiscal year.

Chair McLain thanked Mr. Houser. She asked Councilor McFarland for additional thoughts on how the Council might do a better job. She said the committee heard suggestions last week from the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI). She said she plans to forward Resolution No. 97-2552A and the minutes from last meeting and today to the Councilors-elect for their review and thoughts.

Councilor McFarland said she does not disagree with joint meetings with advisory committees, but she is convinced that everyone is better served if a Councilor regularly attends the advisory committee meetings and reports back to the Council. She said Council meetings with all the advisory committees, coupled with the regularly scheduled weekly Council meetings, will result in an enormous number of meetings.

Chair McLain said she does not disagree with Councilor McFarland. She said there are some groups that have asked to meet with the whole Council, but there are other that have not. She asked Mr. Houser to ask the advisory groups if they have regularly attending Councilors, because if so, the committee may want to consider an amendment to Resolution No. 97-2552A.

Chair McLain asked Beth Anne Steele, Council Public Outreach Coordinator, to review the current work on the elected officials orientation and volunteer recognition. She said at the last meeting, the committee talked about holding a volunteer recognition party, and Ms. Steele and Jeff Stone, Council Chief of Staff, suggested two dates at

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, November 16, 1998

Page 3

the end of January and the beginning of February 1999. She said she asked them to look again at those dates, and now believes they have two dates that are more at the beginning of February.

Ms. Steele said yes, her understanding was that Chair McLain would like the January dates moved because those events have been sparsely attended in the past. She said she has tentatively moved the newly elected officials orientation to Thursday, February 11, and Saturday, February 13, 1999. She asked Chair McLain if those dates would be better.

Chair McLain said she knows Ms. Steele's goal is to hold the event near Metro's twentieth anniversary celebration, but she personally thinks the first week in February is better. She asked when the volunteer recognition party is scheduled.

Ms. Steele said the volunteer recognition party is set for Thursday, February 4, 1999, although the date could be reconsidered.

Chair McLain said the main issue is to look at the calendar and try to avoid conflict with Metro's departments and with the state legislature, since state legislators will be invited to the newly elected officials orientation. She said she favors the first week in February for the volunteer recognition party and for both elected official orientations. She said if logistically possible, it may be a good idea to hold the volunteer recognition and elected officials orientation at the same time so attendants can mingle with one another.

Ms. Steele said they will continue looking at dates.

Chair McLain asked Aleta Woodruff, Vice Chair of MCCI, and Karen Withrow, MCCI Administrative Assistant, for their opinions on the February dates. She asked if any of the proposed dates would conflict with MCCI events, such as its retreat.

Ms. Withrow said last year the retreat was during the first week in February, but a date has not been set yet for this year.

Ms. Woodruff said she supports the idea of a holding the volunteer recognition party and newly elected officials orientation on the same night to increase attendance and give an opportunity to intermingle, but she wondered how the program would be worked out.

Chair McLain said the program could be a problem and asked Ms. Steele to work on it. She said the volunteer recognition party could be held downstairs in the main Metro lobby, followed by the elected officials orientation an hour or so later, which would allow them to use the food for both events.

Ms. Steele said one idea for the volunteer recognition party is to create special recognition awards for people who have served Metro and the region over a long period of time, as part of Metro's 20 year anniversary celebration. She said her main concern about combining the volunteer recognition party and the newly elected officials orientation, besides logistics, is that the two events have very different goals. She said the focus of the newly elected officials orientation is to make sure everyone knows Metro's issues and responsibilities and give them a chance to discuss those issues in a serious manner, whereas the volunteer recognition party is more of a celebration for people who are already involved in Metro.

Chair McLain said a lot of people, especially state legislators, do not recognize the number of citizens who are involved in Metro. She said there could be food first, followed by a 15 minutes awards ceremony, which would allow elected officials see citizens from their communities receive recognition for volunteer work. She said there are advantages to having the two groups see and meet each other, and it would give the volunteers a chance to meet their newly elected representatives. She said she thinks separate events are a duplication of energy that could be utilized in one setting. She invited Ms. Withrow forward to speak.

Ms. Withrow said if one of the newly elected officials orientations is on a Saturday, that might be a better time to have a combined event. She said if the orientation is scheduled for 7:00 in the evening, the volunteer recognition

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, November 16, 1998

Page 4

party would need to be scheduled for about 5:00 in the evening, which might be too early for people coming here from work.

Ms. Steele said her only concern with that is getting people to come to a party at 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning on a Saturday.

Chair McLain said if the volunteer party included special awards, and the invitations mentioned them, some people would come because of that. She said a number of watershed council parties and award recognition start at 10:00 in the mornings on Saturdays and are well attended.

Ms. Withrow suggested holding the volunteer recognition party after the elected officials orientation, if they are held on a Saturday.

Chair McLain thanked Ms. Steele for her efforts, and said it is important to coordinate dates better with both internal and external calendars, and to try to capitalize on some of the interconnectedness they want to have between these two groups. She thanked everyone for their comments.

Chair McLain asked Mr. Houser to continue to work with Ms. Steele and staff on the volunteer recognition party and newly elected officials orientation. She asked for a report back from Mr. Houser on any more discussion of dates. She recommended checking with both current Councilors and incoming Councilors to make sure those dates are good for them.

4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers
Council Assistant

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 1998

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

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
Resolution No. 97-2552A	11/16/98	Memo from John Houser to Chair McLain regarding Implementation of Resolution No. 97-2552A	111698ga-01