

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**2:00 PM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber**

**Council work session**

**2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session call to order at: 2:03 p.m.

**Work Session Topics:**

2:05 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Part II

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)  
[PowerPoint: Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes and Past Programs](#)

Council President Peterson called on Mr. Jon Blasher, Director of the parks and Nature department, to present on the Parks and Nature investment strategy. Mr. Blasher reviewed the goals for the work session discussion, including identifying gaps in the investment structure and outcomes for the parks and nature bond. He then briefly summarized the outcomes of Council's previous parks and nature bond work session discussion and recalled that the Council's priorities focused on making parks more accessible and strengthening the connection between the public and the regions lands and rivers. Mr. Blasher explained the initial 2006 bond criteria's of land acquisition, capital projects, local share, and community grants along with the Regional Trails Plan and asked the Council for any feedback to these criteria.

*Council Discussion***Outcomes**

Councilor Craddick noted that building momentum on investments should be a key outcome. Councilor Stacey raised concerns around the threat of slowly diminishing natural areas in urbanized locations and suggested including the restraint of the urban growth outside urban reserve areas as an additional outcome. Councilor Gonzalez

requested the addition of an outcome explicitly relating to Metro's goal to further to racial equity.

### **2006 bond criteria - Land Acquisition**

Councilor Craddick proposed further clarification of the objectives around the purchasing of lands and parks in urban and suburban areas. Councilor Gonzalez emphasized the importance of connecting the public to trails and pathways, not just for recreational use, but also in an economic context.

Councilor Dirksen noted that parcel size was less of a priority, and suggested focusing on closing the small gaps between the existing acquired lands. Councilor Chase recommended evaluating parcel size as it is relevant or beneficial to habitat value. Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro Chief Operating Officer, stated that the stakeholder community was interested in including sub-criteria regarding habitat value that was culturally significant to indigenous people.

Councilor Stacey conveyed his interest in adding language that specifies Metro's commitment to strengthening access specifically to rivers and other bodies of water in highly urbanized areas.

### **Regional Trails Plan**

Councilor Craddick inquired what opportunities exist for leveraging the transportation bond and the parks and nature bond together to help increase public access. She also raised concerns around gaps in the Regional Trails Plan map, where certain areas of the region have very little trail accessibility compared to others. Councilor Stacey suggested exploring where those areas may be able to access partner trails or natural areas. Council President Peterson requested staff to return with a program proposal

to strategically improve public access in the Regional Trails Plan.

### **Capital Projects**

Council President Peterson suggested that an explicit statement of Metro's commitment to a comprehensive plan for its existing capital projects be added to the capital projects criteria. Councilor Craddick noted that growth would greatly affect the region's need for regional facilities and recommended that this be taken into consideration by staff. Councilor Lewis advised prioritizing the completion of existing capital projects and re-investing in existing parks/natural areas before investing in any new capital projects.

### **Local Share**

Councilor Chase expressed his interest in exploring how the local share criteria aligned with Metro's regional strategies and suggested making this connection more explicit. Council discussed the role of racial equity and recommended specific language on how racial equity applied to local share. Councilor Craddick recalled that some jurisdictions have struggled to identify how they could use the local share funds efficiently, and advised this be included when moving forward.

### **Community Grants**

Councilor Craddick recommended for the re-greening to be re-worked or strategized as they had not been particularly successful the last time.

Council President Peterson inquired whether a de-paving strategy would fit within this category, and if so, requested for it to be explicitly stated. Councilor Gonzalez suggested

broader criteria of reclaiming nature be considered. Councilor Dirksen suggested building upon the grants to incorporate a criteria that encourages communities to increase public access.

Council President Peterson requested further specification on how climate change and racial equity applies to each bond category, and recommended an evaluation under each category.

#### **4:15 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Council President Peterson introduced Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Bennett reminded the Council that the quarterly Regional Trails Forum would take place in the Metro Council chambers on January 23, 2019 from 2-4pm. She noted that an email from Paul Slyman regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Metro South was recently sent to the Council and should be reviewed. Mrs. Bennett also stated that she will be absent from the Council work session on Thursday, January 24, 2019.

#### **4:25 Councilor Communication**

Councilor Gonzalez discussed the Oregon Green New Deal proposal, and its goal to advance clean energy jobs and clean energy transportation within the region. Councilor Lewis shared her experience attending a newly-elected training session in Baker City, where she met and conversed with many new local electives.

#### **4:35 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2019**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
1.0	PowerPoint	01/22/2019	Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes and Past Programs	012219cw-01