

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 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.

Present: 7 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Lynn Peterson, and Christine Lewis

2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, announced 2 items

- 1) The first of three priority sessions will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 9:00am in Beaverton City Hall.
- 2) Metro Regional Center will be closed in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Work Session Topics:

2:10 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Draft Outcomes for Potential Parks and Nature Investments 2019](#)
[PowerPoint - Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes](#)

Council President Lynn Peterson introduced Jon Blasher, Metro Parks and Nature Director. Mr. Blasher reviewed the policy questions that he addressed by Council. He emphasized the importance of meeting changing community needs and making the region more ready for climate change. He also noted the importance of increasing benefits for more people, especially for communities of color. He suggested that Metro connect Parks and Nature investments with other regional and local investments in transportation and housing.

Mr. Blasher reflected on the successes that have come with funding from past bonds. He specifically noted projects involving operations and public programming, restoration of

the natural areas in Metro's care, convening partners, and providing funding for community-led parks and nature projects. He discussed the specific timeline of the bond development.

Mr. Blasher discussed the following draft outcomes based on Council, community input, and Stakeholder table recommendations:

- Inclusive engagement, transparency and accountability.
- Advancement of racial equity through bond investments.
- Protect clean water for people, fish and wildlife.
- Protect and restore culturally significant plant communities.
- Protect, connect and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.
- Make parks and natural areas more accessible and inclusive.
- Connect more people to the land and rivers of our region.
- Invest in trails for biking and walking.
- Support community-led parks and nature projects.

Council Discussion

Council President Lynn Peterson agreed that the bond measures must lead with conservation. She also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the bond measure prioritized community members. Councilor Bob Stacey conveyed that he was also interesting in connecting the community with nature. He also noted the importance of bike routes as pathway opportunities to natural features. Councilor Shirley Craddick suggested that Metro continue purchasing critical land to allow for more access

opportunities. Councilor Sam Chase also discussed the importance of creating more pathways and trails opportunities to access the regions natural areas.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez agreed with Councilor Chase and noted the importance of removing barriers for communities to have access to natural areas. He suggested that the community should be able to access natural areas without needing a vehicle or other transit options. He also suggested that Metro invest in their Nature University program as it gave historically marginalized communities ways to interact with nature using science. Councilor Gonzalez added that Metro should consider investing in the urban core to “reclaim” the land and restore the ecological integrity of the disturbed land.

President Peterson asked if there should be a more in depth definition of “access”. Councilor Christine Lewis noted that it was important for the definition of access to include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. Councilor Chase noted that when taking cultural accessibility into consideration, it was important to keep in mind how other communities and cultures engage with open park spaces. Councilor Craddick added that it was important to grow the portfolio of protected land due to the expected population growth in the coming years.

Councilor Gonzalez and Councilor Craig Dirksen discussed creating partnerships with the parks bond and transportation bond to leverage transportation dollars to make natural spaces and trails more accessible.

3:10 Break

3:25 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature

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[PowerPoint - Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes](#)

Council Discussion

Councilor Peterson led a group discussion exercise in where the councilors identified their priorities from a list of various regional investment strategies. These priority strategies included neighborhood access and information and removing barriers.

4:25 Councilor Communication

Councilor Craddick followed up on the topic of the 2019 Legislative Goals, which were discussed during the Council work session of the previous week on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Councilor Craddick expressed that she, along with President Peterson and Councilor Dirksen, would like state legislators to work on a plastic bag ban statewide. Councilor Craddick also announced that she would like Metro to work on the plastic bag issue regionally in case the ban did not pass through the State legislature. Ms. Bennett stated that she would work on a proposed work plan and engagement strategy to address a regional plastic bag plan.

4:35 Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,



Alma Pinto, Council Policy Assistant

EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(D), TO CONDUCT DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO CARRY ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	01/15/2019	Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes	011519cw-01