

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Work Session Topics:

2:05 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)
[PowerPoint](#)

Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond

Council President Peterson introduced Jon Blasher, Metro Parks and Nature Director, to discuss the Regional Investment Strategy, Parks and Nature Bond Outcomes. Mr. Blasher was joined by Allison Brown of JLA Public Involvement. He recalled the outcomes discussed in previous meetings regarding this bond. He emphasized the importance of maintaining or improving proximity and access to local and regional rivers, parks and natural areas; increasing physical connections to nature with safe bike and pedestrian trails and pathway; and leveraging regional investments to increase people's access to nature in urban areas. Mr. Blasher also reminded council that it is important for the bond to provide enough funding for Metro's dual role as both operator and supporter of the entire regional system of parks, trails and natural areas. He stated that Council is currently in the investment criteria stage of the bond direction; following this stage will be to look at programs and target areas, and referrals.

Mr. Blasher listed the potential 2019 bond program investment areas that were to be discussed by council: land urban transformation, capital projects at Metro-managed parks and natural areas, regional trails, capital grants, and local share. Ms. Brown asked council if these areas listed accurately represented the conversation from the previous two work sessions. Councilor Dirksen asked for clarification

because he assumed that urban transformation would be a capital project also. Mr. Blasher explained that the capital projects would be the Metro nature parks that will be built from restored open spaces; urban transformation refers to areas that are already urbanized and creating an open space out of them. Councilor Craddick emphasized the importance of habitat and clean water needs in regard to land acquisition in program investment areas.

Mr. Blasher discussed the added criteria to the potential program of land and acquisition and restoration: 1) access for people to rivers and streams, and 2) land significant to communities of color, including our urban indigenous community. Councilor Chase suggested deleting the parcel size criteria. Councilor Gonzalez remarked that he would like for Metro to have a focus on community-led restoration efforts for this bond. Mr. Blasher conveyed some criteria that could advance racial equity and improve climate resiliency. Under racial equity, Mr. Blasher noted the following priorities: engagement and decision making, prioritizing lands identified by communities of color, including Indigenous community, and resource allocation and contracting. Under climate resiliency, Mr. Blasher noted the following priorities: protecting and connecting habitats, water quantity and flooding, and tree canopies.

Mr. Blasher outlined the Council bond direction. He noted that after the referral step there will be a process to identify specific projects and more detailed land acquisition strategies through ongoing community engagement. Mr. Blasher discussed the six different potential program areas for this bond: 1) land acquisition and restoration, 2) urban transformation, 3) metro capital investments, 4) trail acquisition and development, 5) community grants, and 6) local share.

Land Acquisition and Restoration

Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Community access to rivers and streams.
- Land should be significant to communities of color, including Metro's urban indigenous community.

Urban Transformation

Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Improve water quality or natural systems
- Leverage other public/private funding - affordable housing, transportation options
- Provide multiple benefits for people and nature
- Require investments be part of adopted land use plans

Mr. Blasher noted that additional input from Metro's own staff in Planning and Development, as well as community stakeholders and local government partners, is still needed.

Metro Capital Investments

Based on Council feedback to explicitly call out a program of capital funding for development of Metro-managed sites,

Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Improve critical infrastructure a
- Improve accessibility beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Improve visitor experience
- Improve efficiency and reduce maintenance
- Expand access to lands and waters of within the Metro region with new public sites

Trail Acquisition and Development

Based on Council feedback, Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Provides people access to lands, water
- Provides connections to significant trails - including state designated trails

- Closes gaps, connects people to major destinations like regional and town centers
- Readiness - plans completed, right of way acquired
- Partnerships; funding leverage

Community Grants

Based on community feedback, Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Improve water quality, quantity issues
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Promote community-led partnerships, particularly with communities of color
- Increase function and presence of nature where communities have identified need

Local Share

Based on feedback from community stakeholders, including the conservation community and some local government partners, Mr. Blasher suggested the following criteria:

- Acquire natural areas or park lands
- Restore habitats
- Enhance public access to natural areas
- Design and construct trails
- Provided enhanced environmental educational opportunities

Council Discussion

There was discussion around the various stakeholders and council's role in having conversation and dialogue between stakeholders. In regard to the land acquisition program investment area, Councilor Craddick noted the importance of including strong criteria to ensure clean water.

Councilor Sam Chase recommended that Metro's Planning and Development staff to revise their terms around parcel size to be more self-explanatory. Ms. Martha Bennett suggested that terms around parcel size should be taken off

because it is soft-criteria that is not necessary to specify. Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez advised for staff to clarify and think about which community stakeholders and organizations would be leading the proposed restoration projects. Councilor Christine Lewis also noted the important in thinking about the types of contractors for these projects. She would want staff to choose contractors with clean energy incentives in consideration. Councilor Craig Dirksen recommended for staff to add environmentally responsible construction practices into climate resiliency for efficiency purposes. He also suggested for staff to add economic and workforce end goals. President Lynn Peterson advised staff to add the term “slope stabilization” under the water quantity and flooding to exercise due diligence.

Councilor Gonzalez recommended for there to be a connection to economic impacts and urban trails under program area addressing climate resiliency. President Peterson and Councilor Gonzalez asked for staff to define what it means for communities to be “nature deficient”, as the definition was too broad. They also encouraged for language to be added that prioritized nature deficient areas. Councilor Stacey suggested that Metro wait to use regional money to replace local assets for projects because it is important for Metro to keep up with the objectives of the bond measure as opposed to municipal objectives only.

3:05 Regional Investment Strategy Bi-monthly Update

Attachments: [PowerPoint](#)

Regional Investment Strategy Bi-monthly Update

President Peterson introduced Andy Shaw, Metro Policy Advisor. Mr. Shaw announced his schedule to give bi-monthly updates on the Regional Investment Strategy. He summarized the Regional Investment Strategy work of the last fifteen months. Mr. Shaw gave background on the foundation of the plan and expanded on the goals set in place. The main focus for 2019 is the parks and nature bond

development, transportation 2020 development, housing bond implementation, and the parks bond election. He noted that his department was in the midst of drafting a park and nature bond for the year of 2019.

Mr. Shaw emphasized why it was important for council to build coalitions and community partnerships.

Council Discussion

President Peterson announced that there would be a regional task force meeting that following week that would discuss the different bonding options. Mr. Shaw also noted that there would be an approval of the work plan and oversight committee that Thursday. Council and Mr. Shaw also decided to set up a briefing to discuss the housing program development in further detail.

3:35 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, announced that she had a meeting with TriMet that discussed the progress with the Construction Careers Pathways Project. She noted that TriMet, has remained committed to the outcomes that have been agreed to with C2P2, but they still have their concerns about the mechanics and other major construction partners.

3:40 Councilor Communication

Councilor Stacey announced that he and Councilor Dirksen attended a day-long seminar called Portland 2.0 that discussed Metro's past and talks from current thought leaders to spread and share policy ideas across generations. Councilor Gonzalez announced that Oregon Homebuilders Association recently opposed House Bill 2001, the missing middle legislation. Councilor Lewis announced that she and Councilor Craddick both attended the CORE retreat the past Saturday. She mentioned that they discussed how CORE can better advise Metro council in their decisions using the strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and

inclusion. Councilor Craddick reported that she and some of council staff met with Oxbow Road Neighborhood that past Sunday night to discuss the fire risk that the Oxbow road community faces. The neighborhood asked council staff to put together plans for future fire related risks and other emergencies.

President Peterson noted that on the council communication for the 2019 legislative agenda the date was moved on the Household Hazardous Waste bill. She announced that the hearing for that bill was held that Thursday. President Peterson also noted that the carbon bill was also expected to come out that Thursday and would have a hearing on Friday. She noted that it was important for metro council to come to a decision about the proposed language regarding the Renter Projection bill.

3:50 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4: 35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alma Pinto, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	01/29/2019	Parks and Nature bond: Potential program options	012919cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	01/29/2019	Regional Investment Strategy: Overview	012919cw-02