

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

2:00 PM

REVISED 5/6

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: 2:04 p.m.

Present: 6 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Craig Dirksen

2:05 Safety Briefing**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature Bond

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

Council President Lynn Peterson introduced Ms. Heather Nelson Kent, Metro staff, and Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro Government Affairs and Policy Development Director, to discuss the Regional Investment Strategy. Ms. Kent explained where her team was in the process of bringing to Council legislation that referred a Parks and Nature bond measure to voters. She announced that they had two members from the COO's Stakeholder Advisory Table who would give highlights of their review of the funding framework. Ms. Kent explained that she wanted direction from council around the key policy issues of conservation easements and working lands and the programming area they called "advancing large scale community visions". She also wanted direction from council on racial equity, community engagement, and the resiliency criteria that they anticipated moving forward in all six of the program areas. Ms. Kent explained that she would like to hear feedback from Council before they moved onto finalizing the legislation in anticipation of June 6, 2019, referral or adoption. In order to meet that deadline, she noted that they would like to publish the legislation two weeks in advance, so they hoped to have final feedback from Council on May 17, 2019.

Ms. Kent introduced Ms. Felicita Monteblanco, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation Board Director, and Mr. Ted Labbe, Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute, to provide their feedback. Ms. Monteblanco shared that her district had about 250,000 people on the stakeholder committee. She praised the work Metro strived for with this measure, and she expressed that the Tualatin Hills Parks community was excited to support the potential bond. Mr. Labbe highlighted that Metro and its local partners had exceeded the ambitious goals they set in the 1995 and 2006. He noted, however, that nation had grown significantly over the last 25 years, and that all the stakeholders agreed that a lot more had to be done with the regional parks, natural area, conservation, recreation, and access. Mr. Labbe expressed that the continual work to protect majorly significant natural areas and habitats needed to remain the focus of the bond. He also conveyed that the bond needed to support neighborhood capital grants, local parks, Metro capital projects, as well as trail acquisition and development. He also spoke to Metro's outreach around historically marginalized groups and their importance in the bond measure's implementation, outreach and engagement.

Ms. Kent recalled that in March of 2019 her team reported to Council that if they kept same tax rate they could expect to raise \$400-\$450 million. Council then directed them to develop proposed investments in these six program areas:

- Protect and restore land
- Take care of Metro parks
- Award community grants
- Support local projects
- Create trails for walking and biking
- Advance large-scale community visions

Under Council's direction, staff brought together a proposal that increased the amount to \$475 million but kept the tax rate at nineteen cents per thousand.

Council Discussion

Councilor Bob Stacey questioned whether the 88 million from the bond separated for taking care of Metro park accurately reflected the careful estimates staff made about what the priority projects were that needed to be done to replace worn out buildings, bathrooms, and building accessible improvements to the nature, as well as some kind of cushion for the property they planned to acquire and wanting to get into the use pipeline during the life of this bond. Councilor Shirley Craddick requested to hear more around the “award community grants” - with an emphasis on historically marginalized communities, a support approach to care for nature and create public access at the community scale through Nature in Neighborhoods grant awards. Councilor Craddick wanted to know what percentage of the allocated money had been distributed. Ms. Kent reported that only about 30% of the funds had not been expended. She noted that grant projects were allowed up to 2 years to find their match and then 4 years to complete their projects.

Council Christine Lewis expressed concerns over the marginal decrease in funding for ADA accessibility. Councilor Sam Chase raised concerns in how much Metro was investing in the region’s urban areas to uphold the values Metro had. He asked that the team put updated the bond language to be more upfront about Metro’s principles to improve conditions for urban residents as a primary goal, and to explicitly recognize the mechanisms to achieve that goal. President Peterson suggested that there also be language added on the principles around how Metro would prioritize bond money going forward in the land acquisition and the metrics behind that.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez applauded Metro and staff for the bond’s strong emphasis on climate resiliency, but he

noted areas that he was still concerned about the following areas:

- He wanted to see a spending outline in consideration for the additional \$35 million bond increase.
- He wanted to see an outline on capital plans for community projects and phases that would not make it to the next round for bond funding because he worried that community stakeholders would lose funding on on-going projects that advanced racial equity.
- For local share, he wanted to see explicit racial equity impacts and outcomes in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Additionally, he wanted to work with the partners in the IGA so that it was properly written and executed and not just based on a “best effort” type of plan.

Councilor Lewis also noted that there needed to be a staff position, not funded by the bond, to track tree canopy process in natural and urban areas. In Councilor Craig Dirksen’s absence, President Peterson shared his feedback he sent out earlier via email: he suggested for there to be more money set aside for the Metro Capital Program. She also summarized Council’s support for the bond increase to \$475 million, but that they are concerned about too much growth in the nature and neighborhoods. Councilor Peterson also noted their suggestions about performance metrics to accomplish the goals that the metro agency is headed for so that there can be an evaluator process to ensure efficiency with the funding allocations. Gonzalez clarified that he did not necessarily want to cuts in nature and neighborhoods funding, he just wanted clarification and clear metrics. Councilor Lewis also remarked that she would like to see risk categories laid out, such pros and cons list that would occur with the various tax brackets.

Mrs. Martha Bennett, Metro's Chief Operating Officer, noted that there would be opportunities for Council to adjust the balance along the way and they could have staff in the future reevaluate program direction that is consistent with a referral.

3:25 Regional Investment Strategy Update

Attachments: [PowerPoint](#)

President Peterson called on Mr. Andy Shaw, Metro Government Affairs and Policy Development Director, and Ms. Tyler Frisbee, Metro staff, for a presentation. Mr. Shaw gave an update on the housing bond implementation. He announced that there was an oversight committee meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. He shared that there were presentations by four jurisdictional partners: Clackamas County and Washington County housing authorities, City of Hillsboro and Metro's site acquisition program team. Mr. Shaw noted that there were opportunities for small group breakouts and discussions of implementation strategies. He announced that the other four implementation partners would present in the week that followed. Mr. Shaw also recalled that Council had unanimously approved project funding for Clackamas County's Phase One project in Gladstone the previous week. He expressed that this finding would be really important for the community and for the lives of the people transitioning out of homelessness who would access these homes.

Ms. Frisbee recapped the Task Force meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. She noted that the Corridors of Interest that rose to the top in the evaluation survey the team had them do. Ms. Frisbee also described the discussion on readiness and opportunity that would take place at Task Force's meeting on either Wednesday, May 15, 2019 or Wednesday, May 29, 2019, to get a corridor recommendation.

She explained that she expected Council to give direction on the Corridor tiering recommendation the received from the Task Force at the Tuesday, June 4, 2019 Work Session. Ms. Frisbee explained that three local investment teams planned to begin their work to identify outcomes after Council's recommendation. She also explained that each team would have six to eight community members working on the corridors in each of the three counties. Ms. Frisbee announced that members would be identified by Metro and partner staff, and they would consult with Council and the Task Force co-chairs as well. She also shared that the team would be supported by local jurisdiction staff who would help guide them through potential investments to advance Council and Task Force outcomes in each potential corridor. Ms. Frisbee reported that the team was expected to present investment recommendations back to the Task Force in late summer or early fall of 2019.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about when the local investment teams would begin to grapple with jurisdictional transfer and shared values. Ms. Frisbee expressed that if Council and the Task Force did not agree with jurisdictional transfer and values, it will not pass forward. That said, she noted that both groups values are aligned, and that there is a strong focus on climate resiliency by both, so this would not be a concern. Ms. Frisbee clarified that the current Council direction is that the design standards that should be used are the regional design standards.

She announced that as a part of the local investment team process, they planned to have July tours of the various corridors in question for Metro Council and Staff members, Task Force members and local investment team members. Mr. Shaw announced upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, May 14, 2019: Parks and Nature bond recommendation Work Session
- Wednesday May 15, 2019 and Wednesday, May 29. 2019: Transportation Task Force - Corridors recommendation
- Tuesday, June 4. 2019: Transportation work session - Corridors direction
- Wednesday, June 5, 2019: Housing Oversight Committee
- Thursday, June 6, 2019: Parks and Nature bond referral decision

Ms. Frisbee announced that a survey would be distributed for the public to provide comment on their lived experience on the corridors in questions. She noted that the survey would be open through the end of May 2019 to the end of June 2019.

3:55 Legislative Update

Mr. Shaw announced that there was not a strong consensus in Salem, Oregon around the bill to raise taxes to fund schools. He explained that the bill passed committee and passed house, but the Republicans were not on board, but there was still uncertainty about whether there were enough Democrats on board to get the bill to pass. In addition to that, Mr. Shaw reported that the entire. He noted that, on behalf of Metro, a letter had been submitted to share concerns about the resources that were taken from the bill.

Mr. Shaw also spoke about the corrections and additions that had been proposed by Metro for the 2017 Fix It House Bill to give a metropolitan service district the authority to incase the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF). He also announced that the carbon bill was issued on Monday, May 6, 2019.

4:25 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Mrs. Bennett announce that Metro had reached agreement with the contracts open in Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC) reached agreement that had been ratified by MERC members. She reminded Council about their briefing with the Human Resources staff where there was discussion about the two pending contracts.

4:30 Councilor Communication

Councilor Craddick and Lewis spoke about a Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) they attended from April 30-May 2, 2019. Councilor Lewis discussed the Fifth Annual Walkability Action Institute workshop conference in Atlanta from 22-25, 2019 she attended on behalf of Clackamas County delegation, which worked on walkability from a public health lens. President Peterson announced that she attended a conference in San Francisco on the Bay Area best practices on April 30, 2019.

4:35 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alma Pinto, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 7, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	05/07/2019	Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature	050719cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	05/07/2019	Regional Investment Strategy: Update	050719cw-02