

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, December 7, 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 16, 1998, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to adopt of the November 16, 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. RESOLUTION NO. 98-2733, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING NEW MEMBERS TO THE WATER RESOURCES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 1998

Rosemary Furfey, Growth Management Services, staff to WRPAC, presented the resolution. The substance of her comments is included in the staff report to the resolution.

Chair McLain asked how many of the nominated people are voting versus non-voting members of WRPAC.

Ms. Furfey said most of the new members will be voting members, as specified in the resolution itself.

Chair McLain said it is important to remember that while the resolution appoints 8 new members, WRPAC currently has a total of 27 members.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 98-2733.

Vote: Councilors McFarland and McLain voted aye. Councilor Monroe was absent. The vote was 2/0 in favor and the motion passed.

Councilor McLain will carry Resolution No. 98-2733 to the full Metro Council.

Councilor McLain asked Ms. Furfey for an update on WRPAC's work on Section 5 of Title 3, the Stream and Floodplain Protection Plan.

Ms. Furfey said in 1998, WRPAC was the main committee that forwarded Title 3 to the Metro Council. WRPAC worked on the technical aspects of the Stream and Floodplain Protection Plan. She said section 5 of Title 3 requires Metro to analyze regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat and WRPAC is beginning its 18-month work plan. She said in order to advise staff on the technical content of the work plan, WRPAC has formed a Goal 5 Technical Advisory Committee which will forward technical products to WRPAC and the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC). She said one of the main lessons learned during the previous work on Title 3 is to keep information flowing often; therefore they will make consistent, periodic updates to all relevant committees, including the Growth Management Committee and the Metro Council. She said the Goal 5 Technical Advisory Committee meets again on December 11, and plans to meet monthly. She said the next WRPAC meeting is

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Monday, December 14, and that committee also meets monthly. She said the regional resources for fish and wildlife habitat protection will be WRPAC's next big task.

Chair McLain thanked Ms. Furfey for the update. She asked the lobbyists to maintain contact with Ms. Furfey during the legislative session regarding water and species protection issues.

3. UPDATE FROM PACWEST LOBBY STAFF

Doug Riggs and Ray Phelps, PacWest, updated the committee on potential legislation at the 1999 legislative session. Mr. Phelps distributed a partial copy of the Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) 1999 Legislative Agenda, a copy of which is included in the record. He directed the committee's attention to the section labeled "Transportation" on the second page. He reviewed the AOI's proposed legislation and said the measure has the backing of the business community and may be more successful than past efforts. He noted that there is no provision in the proposed legislation for mass transit or any other kind of transportation funding. He said it is clear that the legislature believes that when there is funding available for alternate means of transportation, it will have to come from a different revenue source, which has yet to be identified. He said in past years, one of the main reasons a gas tax has not passed is that there are other interest groups that want, and need, funding, but the funding is either not there or no one has identified it. The consensus in the legislature this session appears to be to isolate the two differences and try to move forward with a gas tax increase. Most people with whom they have spoken agree an increase is needed. First, there has not been an increase since fiscal year 1992, but inflation erodes the value of the gas tax by 1 cent per year. Second, improved fuel economy in vehicles has also eroded the amount of revenue generated by the gas tax.

Mr. Phelps said a petition has been filed, and a ballot title certified for circulation, concerning the abolition of regional governments, including Metro. A copy of the ballot title is included in the meeting record.

Chair McLain asked Mr. Phelps if he knows how the new title differs from the previous one.

Mr. Phelps said he has not reviewed the new ballot title yet, as it was recently approved on October 28, 1998. He said this is the third prospective petition filed by Bill Sizemore.

Chair McLain asked John Houser, Senior Council Analyst, to get a complete copy of the ballot item.

Mr. Phelps said referred to a memo from Chair McLain, dated November 18, 1998, a copy of which is included in the meeting record. He said they gave Mr. Houser a draft copy of the Principles Guiding Metro Representatives, a copy of which is included in the meeting record. He said Chair McLain's memo refers to a number of elements they discusses last time, including the guiding principles.

Chair McLain said she met with Executive Officer Mike Burton, Councilor Monroe, and Tim Raphael, Chief of Staff, and reviewed the memo. She said there was general agreement on the memo, and Mr. Raphael was to speak with Mr. Phelps individually.

Councilor McFarland said in reviewing the principles she did not see anything wrong. She asked if the omission of Regional Facilities was intentional or unintentional. She recommended adding language to the guiding principles acknowledging that Regional Facilities is one of Metro's involvements.

Mr. Phelps said the omission was unintentional.

Chair McLain agreed to add Regional Facilities to the principle guidelines. She said the principle guidelines are general, and the survey for Councilors will have more specific items concerning land use. She said it is important to understand that the guiding principles are very general, and she asked Mr. Phelps to change to title to "General Principles Guiding Metro Representatives."

Mr. Phelps said their intent was to be as broad as possible, and they assumed the list would grow continually as indicated by time and circumstances.

Motion:

Councilor McFarland moved to accept the General Principles Guiding Metro Representatives,

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as amended to include Regional Facilities, and forward it to the full Council.
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Vote:

Councilors McFarland and McLain voted aye. Councilor Monroe was absent. The vote was 2/0 in favor and the motion passed.
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Mr. Phelps said there was a meeting last week in Clackamas County for the purpose of trying to identify legislation among the city governments in the county so they could know where they differ and where they can work together. They plan to meet again on December 14, and they are very interested in obtaining Metro's legislative agenda.

Chair McLain said she plans to take the General Principles Guiding Metro Representatives and additional materials to the New Councilor Orientation on December 9, for further conversation. She said identifying general goals will help both in the legislative session and in the Council's work for 1999.

Mr. Phelps asked the Legislative Issues (attached to Chair McLain's memo) are the issues that the Council would be considering adopting for the 1999 session.

Chair McLain said the Legislative Issues, dated July 29, 1998, was originally written by the Executive Officer, and then modified in committee during conversations last summer.

Mr. Phelps said the first item on the Guiding Principles is business services, which is Metro's passport licensing process. He said business services is not included in the Legislative Issues list.

Chair McLain said the Council has not yet acted on this. She said they could act informally in December and formally in January. She suggested adding a miscellaneous area to the Legislative Issues which would include items in the Guiding Principles. She said she will make this recommendation to the Presiding Officer or the full Council.

Mr. Phelps said they will continue to use the general guidelines as their template, and continue to refine a more specific list.

Councilor McFarland asked for more information about the passport licensing process.

Mr. Phelps said small businesses, particularly nurseries, are located in a fixed location but operate in different cities and municipalities throughout the region. Rather than forcing these businesses to buy licenses in each city, the different processes were consolidated and now Metro oversees them. He said it has been a roaring success. The current threshold of about \$125,000 is too low, and needs to be raised to \$250,000. He said a bill is now being drafted to accomplish that; it does not appear to be controversial. He said Representative-elect and former Metro Councilor Gary Hansen will introduce the bill at Metro's request.

Chair McLain thanked Mr. Phelps for the update. She asked Mr. Houser to speak to his document.

Mr. Houser said he is preparing two documents for the new Councilors' orientation meeting on Wednesday. First, he is creating a survey of specific issues that may come before the 1999 legislative assembly, which will ask each Councilor to identify his or her level of interest in each issue, and assess the extent to which each he or she would like to be part of a quick response team on those issues. Second, he is writing a description of a quick response process. He said the parameters of the quick response process used last session were never written down. He said with Mr. Phelps's permission, he would fax him the list of issues on Tuesday for his review and comment.

Mr. Phelps asked Mr. Houser to fax both him and Mr. Riggs.

Mr. Houser said he will work with Executive Office staff to develop the documents.

Chair McLain said the goal was to complete these documents in time for this meeting, but due to Mr. Houser's commitments to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) Boundary Subcommittee, there was no time. She said during her 8 years on the Council, the legislative response has been done differently every year. She said it would be very helpful to have it written down.

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Mr. Phelps said Paul Phillips, PacWest, spoke to the President of the Oregon Senate and the Speaker-elect of the Oregon House and they are both willing to listen and try to be positive about Metro's agenda. He said they understand Metro's goals and have been very encouraging.

4. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Aleta Woodruff, Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement (MCCI), asked if the Wednesday meeting referred to in committee is the 1:00 P.M. Finance Committee meeting.

Chair McLain said she was referring to a New Councilors Orientation meeting at 2:30 P.M. at the Oregon Convention Center. She said the meeting will be an informal update on Metro issues.

Ms. Woodruff said she has received no update on the status of the newly elected officials orientation or the volunteer awards to be distributed at the volunteer recognition party. She wants to be sure MCCI's most committed members are recognized with awards.

Mr. Houser said he spoke with Beth Anne Steele, Council Public Outreach Coordinator, this morning about the volunteer recognition party, and she is finalizing a date in early February.

Ms. Woodruff said MCCI plans to hold its retreat on the last Saturday in February. Mr. Houser said the volunteer party would not conflict, as it will be sometime during the first two weeks of February.

Chair McLain said she would ask Ms. Steele to write a short summary for MCCI and the Governmental Affairs Committee updating them on those issues.

Mr. Houser said Ms. Steele regretted that she could not attend today's meeting, as she was at a Communication Team retreat.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Myers
Council Assistant

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ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 1998

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

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
Update from PacWest Lobby Staff	Nov./Dec. 1998	Associated Oregon Industries 1999 Legislative Agenda, Approved by AOI Board of Directors April 1998	120798ga-01
	10/28/98	Draft Ballot Title Submitted by Bill Sizemore and Becky Miller; Approved for Circulation 10/28/98	120798ga-02
	11/18/98	Memo from Susan McLain to Mike Burton, et al. regarding 1999 Oregon Legislative Session, with attached Legislative Issues (Meg Bushman 7/29/98)	120798ga-03
	12/07/98	Draft Principles Guiding Metro Representatives	120798ga-04