

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

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 to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

2:05 Safety Briefing

Work Session Topics:

2:10 Parks and Nature Bond Implementation

Council President Lynn Peterson introduced Jon Blasher, Parks and Nature Director, to speak on the Parks and Nature Bond implementation.

Mr. Basher introduced the Parks and Nature Bond Refinement Overview, which outlined the refinement process scheduled to begin in spring 2020. He explained that Parks and Nature staff would initiate the refinement process by developing a work plan and hiring staff to carry out the work.

Mr. Basher provided an overview of the refinement process timeline. He reviewed the three stages of the timeline: Alignment, Launch, and Innovate. Mr. Basher explained that the Alignment phase aimed to align pre-existing programs within Parks and Nature with the bond's new racial equity and climate resiliency criteria.

Mr. Basher discussed the Council engagement opportunities available within the three stages. He noted that Parks and Nature staff would present the refined program areas to the Council at the end of the Alignment phase. Mr. Basher presented questions for discussion and asked if there were requests for adjustments to the timeline.

Council Discussion

Councilors expressed appreciation for the presentation and the timeline overview.

Councilor Gonzalez asked when the timeline would be made available to the public.

Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on the participatory budgeting and inquired about the racial equity criteria.

Councilor Lewis recommended that Metro’s Regional Investment Strategy be incorporated into the refinement process.

Councilor Chase shared highlights about the past Bond Oversight Committee meeting.

2:40 Discussion of Potential Ballot Measure to Address Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in the Portland Region

President Peterson introduced Paul Slyman, Chief of Staff, Andy Shaw, Director of Government and Policy Affairs, Mitch Hornecker, Here Together Coalition staff, and Katrina Holland, Here Together Coalition staff, to discuss the Potential Ballot Measure to Address Services for People Experiencing Homelessness in the Portland Region.

Ms. Holland provided an overview of the community engagement the Here Together Coalition conducted in the region. She reported on the diversity of topics people discussed around supportive housing. Ms. Holland highlighted the community’s understanding of homelessness as a systemic issue and their interest in addressing the issue in a systematic approach.

Mr. Hornecker discussed the region-specific reports conducted by research organizations on the topic of

homelessness. He reported that the findings suggested the solution to homelessness would be housing with flexible supportive services. Mr. Hornecker noted that voters in the region were in favor of addressing homelessness by providing supportive services and enacting systemic changes.

Mr. Hornecker reviewed the two revenue options available for the supportive housing measure: a business licensing fee and a high-income earners tax. He discussed each revenue option and highlighted the support for each among voters in the region.

Mr. Hornecker explained the policy framework. He reviewed the key components of the framework and emphasized its focus on equity and prioritizing chronic homelessness.

Mr. Shaw discussed the proposed revenue mechanism and the legal limitations around enacting a high earner income tax. He reviewed the proposed models of governance and accountability for the measure: a community oversight committee, local implementation plans, and intergovernmental agreements.

Mr. Shaw listed the priority populations of the measure: people with disabilities experiencing prolonged homelessness, people at risk of homelessness, and communities of color. He discussed the types of supportive services provided by social service providers. Mr. Shaw explained that language on these services needs to be clarified in order to refer the measure to voters.

Mr. Slyman provided an overview of the ballot measure timeline. He noted the scheduled community forums in Washington County and Clackamas County and the Public Hearing at the Metro Regional Center. He explained that Council would vote on the proposed ballot measure on

February 20th.

Council Discussion

Councilors expressed appreciation for the Here Together Coalition and the presentation.

President Peterson noted the need to determine how Metro, in collaboration with the Here Together Coalition, could begin to phase the measure in and how they could implement the measure differently than was done in the past.

Councilor Chase suggested staff organize a community forum in Multnomah County. He asked about the bond implementation process and recommended Metro assess its capacity to create a strategic plan for the bond implementation.

Councilor Dirksen remarked on the importance of ensuring regional providers can provide the services funded by the ballot measure. He also noted Metro's limited authority to tax and provide services outside of its boundaries.

Councilor Lewis emphasized the need to ensure that equity was an integral component of the measure. She inquired about the expectations for counties and housing authorities with regard to the measure. She noted the importance of ensuring fair wages, culturally competent and culturally specific services, and accountability mechanisms were embedded in the bond implementation.

Councilor Craddick asked for clarification on the estimated revenue of the measure. She asked how the bond revenue would be distributed and inquired about a proposed business tax. She suggested Metro outreach to the communities in East Multnomah County.

Councilor Gonzalez inquired about the specific programs and services the measure would include and asked for clarification on the income tax tiers. He recommended Metro work towards a fair and equitable plan of distributing funds among the counties.

Councilor Stacey emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication with the public about the ballot measure.

President Peterson asked how staff could provide more information regarding data collection, analysis, and reporting to regional stakeholders following the referral. She expressed appreciation for everyone involved in the creation of the proposed ballot measure.

3:55 Chief Operating Officer Communication

There was none.

4:00 Councilor Communication

Councilor Dirksen provided an overview of the Region 1 Area Commission on Transportation meeting.

4:05 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nubia Milpas Martinez, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 04, 2020

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Handout	02/04/2020	2019 Parks and Nature Bond Refinement Overview	020420cw-01
2.0	PowerPoint	02/04/2020	2019 Parks and Nature Bond Refinement Overview	020420cw-02