

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 2020

2:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/527415547>

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 2:02 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

Work Session Topics:**2:05 COVID-19 Response Briefing and Discussion of Guiding Principles**

Council President Peterson introduced Ms. Marissa Madrigal, Chief Operating Officer, Andrew Scott, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Elissa Gertler, Planning Director, and Raahi Reddy, Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion to present on the COVID-19 Response Briefing and Discussion of Guiding Principles.

Ms. Madrigal provided a brief overview of the agenda, which included a review of Metro values; Federal, State and Metro-wide decisions; a budget timeline; and community investments.

Ms. Madrigal noted the values behind decision-making and it included strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion, what Metro stands for as a regional government, regional response and recovery, employee welfare, and transparency. She mentioned the criticalness of incorporating values during a point of decision-making.

Before continuing, Ms. Madrigal reviewed the strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion. She then listed a few key goals and principles:

- Hire, train and retain a more racially diverse workforce
- Create a safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations

- Allocate resources to advance racial equity
- Meaningfully engage communities of color
- Support regional partners to advance racial equity

She stressed the importance of maintaining these values during the pandemic.

Ms. Madrigal gave an overview of Metro's stance. It included: standing with all communities, advancing economic justice, advancing the health and personal safety of the people of greater Portland, and to act with civility and respect. She also emphasized the importance of implementing Metro's stance in the decisions made regarding COVID-19.

Ms. Madrigal discussed the regional response and recovery for COVID-19. She mentioned that COVID-19 was a novel global event that required a global response, and that staff had to remember what was in their control and what was not. Ms. Madrigal noted the need to position Metro and the region to recover as quickly as possible, and to reopen the venues as soon as it is safe for staff to support the regional economy.

Ms. Madrigal provided a COVID-19 policy decision timeline spanning from March 05, 2020 through April 01, 2020 that included Metro, state, and federal decisions. Some decisions included temporary telework and sick leave policies, the closure of the Oregon Zoo, and the opening of COVID-19 test site at Portland Expo Center. She then reported ICS team accomplishments such as telework and leave policies, emergency procurement, coordinate and support regional facility needs, donation of supplies, communications, and telework support.

Ms. Madrigal reviewed the support and communication given to Metro staff during COVID-19. Efforts included extending pay through April 01, 2020 despite the cancellation of shifts for certain staff members, extending

insurance benefits, and the allowance of intermittent use of leave. She also mentioned that transparency and frequent communication was utilized for staff.

Mr. Scott provided a budget guidance and timeline that included the guiding values of applying racial equity lens; to take care of employees, agency and communities; and to evaluate programmatic and capital investments. He then discussed the three budget reduction phases: emergency decisions, immediate but not emergency decisions and normal public budget decision process.

Ms. Gertler and Ms. Reddy discussed the importance of Metro's responsibility to the public and the need to evaluate the needs of the external communities. Such work included the quick response team and their efforts to reassess, realign and reposition resources to respond to COVID-19 crisis, and to reaffirm commitment to advancing racial equity through grant programs, community partnerships, sponsorships and procurement.

Mr. Paul Slyman, Chief of Staff gave an update on the Metro Council sponsorships. He acknowledged that previous sponsorship guidelines would have to be updated and edited due to COVID-19 and stay at home orders. Mr. Slyman mentioned that staff would have additional materials to update the Council the week of April 13, 2020.

Ms. Madrigal asked the Council the following questions:

- Do these values align with Council values? Are they comprehensive?
- Where do these values guide us going forward in our role as a regional government as our community re-opens and recovers?

Council Discussion

President Peterson proposed adding community cohesiveness and responding as a region to the list of metro values discussed during the work session.

Councilor Dirksen mentioned that values and goals don't change due to the circumstances. Rather, how the goals are attained are changed.

Councilor Craddick questioned how the racial equity lens would be more specific regarding COVID-19.

Councilor Stacey was interested in taking the next steps in implementing the values presented by Ms. Madrigal. He stressed the importance of integrating a racial equity lens to the plan.

Councilor Lewis commented on the need to include the six desired outcomes to the evaluation of the plan. She requested support systems be implemented for staff and for contracting to stay within Metro when possible.

Councilor Gonzalez commented on the need to move the agency forward by considering staff, partners, and the region.

Councilor Chase emphasized the importance of economic stimulus, rebuilding, and community interface. He also question how the Council would be engaged in the COVID-19 dialogue.

Councilor Dirksen mentioned the responsibilities of the agency that included the six desired incomes and the wellness of staff.

President Peterson requested staff discuss long term response.

2:50 Chief Operating Officer Communication

There was none.

2:55 Councilor Communication

Councilor Gonzalez reported on his attendance of the Governor's Regional Solutions COVID-19 Response team meeting.

Councilor Lewis discussed her meetings with Willamette Falls Cove, MERC, and CORE.

3:00 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diadira Pedro-Xuncax, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 09, 2020

| Item | Topic | Doc. Date | Document Description | Doc. Number |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.0 | PowerPoint | 04/09/2020 | COVID-19 Briefing and Metro Values | 040920cw-01 |