

# Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
[oregonmetro.gov](http://oregonmetro.gov)



Metro

## Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2020

2:00 PM

**Council work session**

**2:45 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session call to order at: 2:45 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:**

2:48 Parks Bond Update

President Peterson introduced John Blasher the Parks Director for Parks and Nature, Scotty Ellis a Staffer in Parks and Nature Department and Beth Cohen the Strategic Funding Project Manager to present on the Parks Bond Update.

Mr. Blasher reviewed the goals of the Parks Bond and provided a summary of the work the Parks and Nature Department accomplished since their meeting with Council in May. He explained that the Parks and Nature Department was currently in the process of developing a structure for both the Parks Bond oversight committee and Community Visions project.

Mr. Blasher reviewed the three Parks Bond criteria: Racial equity, Climate resilience and Community engagement. He explained that the Parks department incorporated the Parks Bond criteria in their program structure plans. He highlighted that the overall goal of this bond is to restore and protect local wildlife, incorporate native and marginalized group's voices in this process and to increase accessibility to nature in the metro area.

Ms. Cohen reviewed the feedback given by Council in May. She explained that since May the Parks department focused on refining the three programs Council had asked them to expedite: the Local Share program, Capital Grants program, and the large scale Community Visions program and how the Parks department included Council's suggestion of incorporating economic drivers into these programs in order to address the impact of the pandemic on communities.

Ms. Cohen presented the updated refinement timeline of the Bond highlighting that the focus at the beginning of the timeline was on building community partnerships and tools in order to have more meaningful community engagement by early 2021. She explained the next step in the process is the creation of an independent community oversight committee comprised of 13-17 people with a diverse background in finance, environmental law, and knowledge of tribal sovereignty and representative of community groups.

Ms. Cohen introduced Mr. Elis to present the Parks and Nature staff recommendation of the two phase implementation structure of the Community Visions Project. Mr. Elis explained that in "Phase One" staff and council will work to create a sub-committee which will select and review which projects to fund to present to council for approval. He described that in "Phase Two" staff and council will work to create a community working group in order to connect with the community to find community specific projects and see where chosen projects can help with other projects in order to increase their collective community impact. Mr. Elis explained that the next steps for this process would be to create guidelines for the subcommittee with council approval in order establish this subcommittee by January 2021.

*Council Comments:*

President Peterson asked Ms. Cohen to respond to how staff has reached out for feedback and how they are moving forward with this feedback in reference to structure. She reminded Park staffers that during the process of recruiting Oversight Committee members, staff should collect and share all interested parties that want to be involved in committees at Metro. President Peterson recommended that Park staffers ensure that representation on the Community Engagement team goes region wide outside of just one or two jurisdictions in order to ensure a holistic regional input.

Councilor Chase introduced a letter Council received from the Portland Audubon Society which highlighted the importance of protecting natural areas within the urban growth boundary. He asked Parks and Nature where in the Bond timeline staff plans to discuss these target areas. Councilor Chase expressed support for the Community Visions phased approach because it allows more room for movement in the bond. He advised Park staffers to keep in mind the capacity of staff and to try to apply the Community Engagement team to the entirety of the bond instead of just the Community Visions project.

Councilor Stacey expressed the importance of making sure there are opportunities in the future for Council to address the three following program categories: protect and restore nature in region, the creation of new trails and the take care of Metro parks. He asked Park staffers to clarify program area guidelines so that if there are certain projects that could be defined as belonging in multiple program areas, concerned partners and constituents can properly follow their proposed timeline and know when they can begin providing feedback. Councilor Stacey shared the sentiments

of Councilor Lewis that interest in nature is an important criteria for this type of position.

Councilor Craddick expressed her appreciation of the Audubon letter and the work of staff on this Bond. She highlighted the importance of having the conservation community's input throughout this process in order to properly protect natural areas in our region. Councilor Craddick noted the importance of having committee members who had a conservation industry background and interest. She additionally stressed the importance of maintaining transparency to the public in meetings by publishing minutes and recordings of meetings.

Councilor Lewis acknowledged the communication frustration expressed by partners such as Urban Greenspaces and the Audubon Society. She recommended that Park staffers begin shifting some of their internal work on the project towards beginning to solicit external feedback and providing clearer public communication about the work being done. Councilor Lewis stressed the importance of bringing in members who express a connection and passion to nature and Metro's Parks. She advised Park staffers to take their time with the second phase in order to insure that the Community Engagement team reflects the communities it will be working with.

Councilor Gonzalez acknowledged Park staffer's work on trying to navigate community engagement during the pandemic and expressed his appreciation for external partners like the Audubon reaching out and providing feedback on communication concerns.

Councilor Dirksen shared his support for the Community Visions proposed structure because it provides opportunities to react quickly towards issues but also the opportunity to be thoughtful and collaborative in the part

two of the structure. He highlighted the importance of utilizing the staff and community assets that Metro already has.

**3:46 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Madrigal announced that Metro and SOLVE were co-nominated for the Governors Land Board Partnership award for Metro's RID patrol trash removal work. She mentioned that the ceremony will be held virtually on October 13 at 10 am.

**3:49 Councilor Communication**

Councilors expressed their grief over the loss of Councilor Chase's Policy Adviser Ernie Hayes.

**4:33 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pilar Karlin*

Pilar Karlin, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 01, 2020**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2.0	PowerPoint	10/01/2020	Regional Investment Strategy T2020	100120cw-01
2.1	Handout	10/01/2020	Parks Bond Timeline Draft	100120cw-02
2.2	Audubon Society Letter	10/01/2020	2019 Greenspace Bond Implementation	100120cw-03