



METRO

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For immediate release

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Metro Charter Committee schedules first meeting

The Metro Home Rule Charter Committee will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, May 7, in the third floor conference room at Metro Center, 2000 SW First Ave. in Portland. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a swearing-in ceremony and reception. The committee will get down to business at about 6:15. Chair of the committee is Hardy Myers, a Portland attorney and former speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

The 16-member committee will be responsible for drafting a home rule charter for the Metropolitan Service District, then referring that charter to the voters of the district, probably in May or November 1992. The first meeting is expected to focus on the committee's charge, by-laws, budget and work plan.

In November 1990, voters of the state approved ballot measure 1, granting voters of the Metropolitan Service District home-rule authority, similar to the authority enjoyed by cities and counties. Currently, Metro's authority is statutory and can be changed only by the state legislature, not by the voters. The charter could potentially change the governance structure of the agency, the make up of the Metro Council, or the scope of the agency's responsibilities.

Pursuant to the passage of measure 1, the legislature this year passed and Governor Roberts has signed SB 298, creating the Metro Home Rule Charter Committee.

In addition to Myers, committee members are: James "Matt" Hennessee, Portland; Isaac Regenstreif, Portland; Wes Myllenbeck, Portland; Rep. John Meek, Hillsboro; Judy Carnahan, Portland; Mary Tobias, Sherwood; Sen. Bob Shoemaker, Portland; DeMar Batchelor, Hillsboro; Mimi Urbigkeit, West Linn; Rep. Ron Cease, Portland; Ned Look, Portland; Frank Josselson, Lake Oswego; Jon Egge, Milwaukie; Ray Phelps, Lake Oswego; and Charles Hales, Portland.