

Date: May 21, 1991
To: Hardy Myers
From: Betsy Bergstein *BB*
Regarding: Questions from Planning Subcommittee
and Miscellaneous Activity

Health Care Benefits

You asked me to verify whether committee employees could receive Metro health benefits. I have checked with Sarah Keele, Metro Benefits Analyst and the answer is no. The contract with our provider does not allow for participation of non-Metro employees or short-term employees.

Sarah Keele stated there is a federal law which requires employers to extend health care benefits to "separating employees" for at least 18 months. In other words, if the Committee wanted to hire someone who was currently receiving benefits through employment, that individual would have the right to continue their health care benefits by purchasing them directly. The Committee could chose to reimburse their employee for health care costs.

Computers and Printer

You asked me to verify whether Metro would assume the cost of computers and printer for the Committee. I have checked with Richard Engstrom, the Deputy Executive Officer, and he has confirmed that Metro will assume this cost.

Use of Consultants

I stated that I would phone Barney and Worth to explore their relationship with the City of Portland in the Future Focus process. I spoke with Erik Jensen who gave me the following information:

Barney and Worth were hired to staff and facilitate one of the six working groups. Different consultants were hired for each working group, depending on their expertise in the subject being explored. They reported to Martha Bennett and Debbie McCabe who oversaw the work of the working groups and consultants.

Their work consisted of staffing and facilitation; research and support services. This included creating the format for the process, producing meeting agendas, material and hand-outs, summarizing material for committee decision making. They

identified and solicited experts to write positions papers for the committee and they wrote the final report.

They were paid on a straight fee basis.

Legal Services

Casey Short, Council Analyst, who was a member of the Multnomah County Charter Review process, tells me that the law firm of Lindsey Hart did a lot of pro bono work in the Multnomah County process. Dick Roberts and Harvey Rogers were the lawyers involved. I am passing this along for your information.

City Club

I have received a phone call from the City Club looking for ways that their membership can become involved. The research committee is recommending not to view this as a research project, at this time, but they would like means identified for involvement (Nancy Kurkinan).

Phone Activity

We are receiving an increasing number of inquiries about the Committee from various individuals and groups (eg. League of Women Voters). The mailing list is growing and I expect this activity will continue.

Committee Member Bios

We receive a steady stream of requests for information on Committee members. Do you think it is desirable to ask Committee members to submit a short bio that could be made available to interested parties?

Charter Committee Name

The legislation establishing the Charter Committee refers to the group as a committee rather than commission. It might be worthwhile clarifying this with the Committee, although I don't think there is any significant difference between referring to yourself as a commission rather than a committee, if that is the groups preference.

cc: Executive Rena Cusma, Presiding Officer Tanya Collier, Councilor Richard Devlin, Don Carlson, Ken Gervais