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# METRO

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# Memorandum

Date: September 27, 1991

To: Metro Council, Executive, Interested Parties

From: Betsy Bergstein *BB*

Regarding: Charter Committee Meeting - September 26, 1991

The Committee met in room 440 at Metro. All members were present with the exception of Ray Phelps, Judy Carnahan and Representative John Meek.

Minutes from the August 13, 22, 29 and September 5 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The discussion regarding planning and delivery of services in the same government was resumed. The Chair stated he viewed it as the "gateway" into a discussion on functions.

Larry Derr reviewed Nohad Toulou's input to the Committee that planning was intended to be a visionary, future-looking, broad based process rather than a regulatory process. There is a need in the region for that type of planning.

Would a local government model with a planning commission that does long range planning, approved by the Council and delegated to the Executive work? (Shoemaker).

Conflict would still be there. (Derr)

Jon Egge asked if the people of the region were primarily concerned with Metro providing the Zoo or solid waste? And answered, no, what's driving the need for regional government is planning as a vehicle to mold the future of the area in a general sense. Planning process should be separated and purified.

Senator Cease responded that there is no such thing as purity. Tom Walsh emphasized the importance of Metro planning. We are ahead in this area because of our state land use planning laws. An effort to separate planning from politics is doomed. It is a political process.

(Cease) Metro doesn't do planning. It doesn't have a regional plan. JPACT is a body that divvies out money. The original legislation establishing Metro spoke to bringing regional activities into one body to give a better chance at accountability.

MSD; got to be able to sell comprehensive planning. Voter doesn't care who does it.

(Hales) Disagrees with argument for incrementalism.

(Cease) Metro has become a general purpose government.

(Hales) Metro spends too much time on minutiae, not enough on planning.

(Myers) Let's start to define planning functions to work through to draft charter language to define what planning functions are. What is the planning responsibility of the agency to be? Start with criteria on regional government function and then move into functions.

(Josselson) Agree. Begin article 1 sec. 7 discussion.

(Derr) Planning is on different level than services.

(Josselson) Have to begin with big picture and then refine it.

(Myers) Planning is the big picture --- division of planning and operations within structure is very legitimate.

(Tobias) Growth is not the bug-a-bear that Frank is describing. Take strong exception to idea that local government can't do its job. Need to go back to bottom up system. Let's not use the word planning. Don't know of any local government that says we don't need regional government.

(Myers) Definition of the responsibility crucial. Criteria.

(Look) Do need regional government to do, manage and oversee those functions which have a regional constituency. With Mary on innuendos re local government; innuendo that Metro is motivated by tipping fees offends.

(Josselson) Sorry to come across to you as confrontational.

(Look) Want to be sure a different point of view...

(Hales) Glad we got these issues out; cities have done good local planning; can't do regional planning. Propose basic principle:

1. Plan, coordinate or implement government programs or functions which equip region to manage regional growth.
2. Fund regional services on a regional basis.

Metro Housing Rule increased allocation of housing in region. Haven't dealt with commercial and industrial. Tax base sharing, eg. Forest Grove permanently crippled; needs land for industry. Fallen short on

Three concepts to address. Is this a basis to start a discussion on what regional government functions ought to be.

(Hales) The next step above zoning. Amount dedicated to mixed use, to single family to higher density. Set perimeters; enforce concepts from regional level.

(Cease) What are the pieces that lead local government to resist and what are the nature of politics; nature of political resistance? Who should control growth and what communities look like?

(Hales) Single family home owners resist multi-use. Metropolitan Housing Rule let cities off the hook --- "LCDC made me do it."

(Tobias) Local governments not at the table to develop public policy biggest problem. Local governments translate public policy to the citizens; they hear from their constituents. Local governments are only concerned that they be a partner. Metro plans --- asks for reaction. We are not in same position we were 5-10 years ago. There is concurrence and partnership on many things, partly because Feds have forced down.

(Cease) Metro doesn't pay attention to its constituencies.

(Egge) Most important insights might come from this committee.

(Myers) Work with out diversion and get started on concepts. Don't invite testimony at this time. Proceed with regard to what's happening at Metro now. Return to limitations; role of regional government in dealing with limitations.

(Hales) STOP vs. Metro. Case law is now well established. UGB not as fully developed as it should be. Is it not a component of regional comprehensive plans? No. Is it a component of local comprehensive plans. No effective administrative process for changing UGB. Quasi-political process. Hearings officer, Council, Court---great uncertainty. It is a fence, not a tool. Has worked better than anything else in USA but we are loving it to death. Need regional planning framework. Where do we want region to grow/not grow? Urban reserve concept.

(Derr) Constant set of standards for amending boundary; only guidance is Goal 14; decide what population is going to be and go from there.

(Josselson) Nohad Toulan said reason England grew was that the Queen ordered greenbelts between cities in 16th. century and said cities won't grow together.