

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held: August 18, 1976, 7:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cease, Chairman; Nelson; Nightingale; Stuhr

EXCUSED: Kirkpatrick, Halvorson, Mays, Stevenson, Tippens

STAFF: Rich, Garbutt, Cross

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 4th Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nightingale and passed.

A report on matching local funds was given by McKay Rich: We now have \$15,000 from businesses, and Clackamas County has approved their contribution.

Approval of telephone charges for July, \$119.95, was moved and seconded by Nightingale and Nelson - the motion passed.

Steve Telfer, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported on that committee's progress: In our draft report for the Phase II Report we attempted to outline the agency to represent a merging of CRAG and MSD which would have an elected board with budgetary authority over the Port and Tri-Met. One of the key issues in our study was the financing of this arrangement. We do not want to create an entirely new regional entity, but are endeavoring to make the present entities more effective. The three options we considered were: 1) CRAG dues structure and MSD, 2) Legislation for general fund appropriation, 3) Regional property tax levy. After a committee discussion, #2 was generally favored. We also discussed the legality of continuing the dues structure. Jim Mattis was consulted and he feels this is just as constitutional as the present structure. We also considered the long range plan for making the agency self-supporting.

Proposals for Middle Tier - 1) Endorsement of joint platform of Oregon counties League of Oregon Cities, and School Boards Association re revenue sharing. 2) There is interest in the Minnesota Fiscal Disparities Act. It deserves much further study. 3) The overlap in certain city and county functions such as the planning department is another one of the problems to be resolved along with the duplication in taxation. 4) Existing neighborhood structures should be encouraged to continue.

Telfer said the Finance Committee will meet at noon August 26, and any significant changes in this report will be presented at the Commission meeting.

The Chairman introduced George Joseph, Legal Counsel for Multnomah County, who spoke about the Cook/Otto amendment to the Multnomah County Charter, which will be on the November ballot.

Joseph: The sole purpose of this amendment is to recall Don Clark. So far the media have editorialized in favor of this measure, but the reporters I spoke with admitted they had not even read it.

There are many technical things about this amendment, but basically it is designed to fix terms for two years, fill vacancies by special election, and

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recalls the chairman of the board. A most peculiar feature of the measure provides that all members of the board shall be elected at the same time. You could have ten nominees who are eligible to declare for chairman. A person could get a majority of votes county-wide and still not be elected chairman of the board. This fact is so far-fetched that people just don't believe it could happen. What Verne Cook wants is a board which is East County dominated. There is nothing in the amendment which requires residency within an electoral district.

There is no strong campaign against this measure - county government does not interest people. We are trying to generate some outside interest. The League of Women Voters is conducting a detailed study of the charter amendments. They are trying to encourage people to read it carefully and respond in a questionnaire.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Joseph for appearing and describing the purpose of the amendment.

CONTINUING THE COMMISSION - Telfer

This Commission is the first truly representative group to study local government. The concept of the Tri-County should be continued, and ways to finance it should be examined; possibly through the state with 100% local matching funds from business organizations. This would support it through the first two years, by then it could be a full-blown citizens' committee.

REPEAL OF ORS CHAPTER 197

Cease: The Commission must decide whether our involvement with this issue would be appropriate.

Nelson: We should be considering it - the CRAG issue is part of our long range program.

Nightingale: We should hear both sides of any of these issues in order to thoroughly inform ourselves, however as our time is limited we will not be able to listen to every one of these types of issues.

Stuhr: We could establish certain criteria which would apply to various situations so we would not have to make an individual decision on each topic.

Telfer: We have a short time span and a tight schedule. We have to concentrate on regional matters.

Rich: The full Commission could recommend that charters be reviewed on a general basis by objective review committees.

Cease: How should we proceed with Commission review of these two issues?

Rich suggested the Land Use part of it be assigned to the Land Use Committee or possibly to a special committee.

Cross: The focus by the media should not be directed away from the regional study we are doing. Perhaps too much emphasis would be placed on these two issues.

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Chapter 197 - continued

Cease: The August 26 agenda is already full, but these topics will be on the next Executive Committee agenda.

Cease reported that the series of meetings with the legislators have been positive and worthwhile, resulting in good two-way communication.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.

AMR/bjg