

Minutes of the Metro Council Work Session
January 27, 1995
Metro Regional Center, Room 370

Councilors Present: Ruth McFarland (Presiding Officer), Rod Monroe (Deputy Presiding Officer), Patricia McCaig, Susan McLain, Don Morissette, Ed Washington

Councilors Absent: Jon Kvistad

Presiding Officer McFarland called the special work session to order at 12:20 p.m.

1. Introductions

None.

2. Citizen Communications

None.

3. Executive Officer Communications

None.

4. Other Business

4.1 Discussion of Council Legislative Priorities

Merry Waylett, Office of Government and Public Relations, introduced Noel Klein, Western Advocates. Mr. Klein distributed and discussed Senate Bills (SB) 327, 328, and 329, copies of which are included in the record of this meeting. He explained the bills attempted to limit government ability to levy taxes.

Mr. Klein said SB 328 limited local governments from targeting lottery retailers. The consensus of the Council was to take no action on SB 328.

Mr. Klein suggested Metro oppose SB 329. Councilor Morissette stated he supported Senate Bill 329, expressing his opposition to niche taxing. Councilor Monroe stated he strongly opposed Senate Bill 329, expressing concern about limiting local government authority. Mike Burton, Executive Officer, spoke in favor of finding funding sources for local governments. In response to the Executive Officer, Mr. Klein stated the League of Oregon Cities desired Metro's support in opposition of the bill.

Mr. Klein discussed SB 327 as proposing a moratorium on new hotel/motel tax for six years without a vote of the people. He noted any proceeds approved by a vote of the people would be limited to promoting tourism. Casey Short, Senior Council Analyst, summarized the agreement regarding transient lodging tax increases with regard to the \$600,000 OCC transfer to PCPA. The Executive Officer expressed concern about the Director of the Department of Revenue defining "tourism". Mr. Klein suggested Metro oppose Senate Bill 327 in principle. Councilor Morissette discussed the transfer subsidy of the PCPA at length as it related to SB 327. The consensus was to oppose SB 327.

Boundary Commission Discussion

John Houser, Senior Council Analyst, discussed the history of the Boundary Commission and the need to reduce the number of members on the commission. He distributed and summarized a proposed amendment to SB 281, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. The Council discussed the process, the need for change and the method for accomplishing the goals of the revision. Councilor Morissette expressed a desire to have input into the selection of the Boundary Commissioners. Councilor McLain noted the Council previously appointed members and

the existing Legislative proposal was to take that authority away, calling for the need to amend SB 281. The Executive Officer noted the Council was required to conduct a study by September 1995; that Metro made financial contributions to the commission; and that local jurisdictions affected by commission decisions may desire input. Councilor Washington suggested seven members be appointed by the seven Councilors, three members appointed by each of the counties, and one member appointed by the Executive Officer.

Mr. Houser introduced Ken Martin, Executive Director, and Ray Bartell, Boundary Commissioner. Mr. Bartell discussed the size of the commission, suggesting eleven members as appropriate. He noted the commission had ninety days to decide on an issue or the issue would go forward automatically. He stated a majority of seven was also the minimum quorum and created difficulties with getting people physically together and to develop a decision. He discussed the history of the appointment process. Mr. Martin noted that appointing three members outside of the UGB might be over representative of that population. Don Carlson, Senior Council Analyst, discussed qualifications of the members, noting no more than two members can share the same occupation.

Councilor Monroe noted Metro may request the Legislature to allow Metro to develop the rules of size, appointment and qualifications of the boundary commission. Councilor McCaig suggested that approach was not practical. She noted that regardless of the members selected, they would all need to work together cooperatively. She favored having the Council appoint seven members and the Executive Officer to appoint the remaining members. Councilor Monroe suggested the Executive Officer make decision when there are more than two nominees from the same occupation.

Councilor McLain suggested a subcommittee discuss the issue further and come back with recommendations. The Executive Officer suggested his authority to be review and comment, not a veto; and to have the four other members (including two from outside the UGB) be appointed by the Executive Officer and nominated by MPAC. He suggested the staggering of the terms according to the existing terms of the remaining seven commission members; and two of the EO appointments be two year terms and the other two be four years terms and then four years after the initial completion of the terms. The consensus of the Council was to forward that recommendation.

Presiding Officer McFarland thanked Mr. Martin and Mr. Bartell for attending.

Presiding Officer McFarland recessed the meeting at 1:55 p.m. Presiding Officer McFarland reconvened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

EFU Farm Deferral

Councilor McLain introduced the EFU Farm Deferral issue. Larry Shaw, Senior General Counsel, discussed the issues contained in his January 26, 1995 memorandum to Andy Cotugno, Planning Director, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. The general consensus of the Council was to proceed in the current direction.

Legislative Agenda Process

Mr. Houser discussed the Legislative process. The Council discussed process for dealing with Legislation. The consensus of the Council was to not be copied any bills that had no impact on Metro. Councilor McCaig favored having a subcommittee of three Councilors to have authority to make decisions. She called for identification of major priorities. Mr. Klein called for opportunities to discuss issues with Councilors as they arise. Councilor McLain stated three priorities are transportation funding, land-use legislation, and financing options.

Councilor Morissette stated he was also interested in the farm tax deferral, gas tax, lottery funding for light rail, and focusing on categories of priorities. Councilor McCaig wanted attention to funding ability, land use issues with consensus, and transportation funding. Councilor Morissette called for a discussion about trade-off issues.

Councilor Monroe stated he would attend the Special District Association of Oregon meetings and would report back on those discussions.

5. Councilor Communications

Councilor McLain stated the Glencoe Student Congress was conducting a Metro Student Congress Saturday, January 27, 1994 at Glencoe High School.

With no further business before the Council, Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Lee".

Susan Lee
Council Assistant

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