

Minutes of the Metro Council Work Session
February 21, 1995
Council Chamber

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

Councilors Absent: None

Presiding Officer McFarland called the work session to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Introductions

None.

2. Citizen Communications

None.

3. Executive Officer Communications

None.

4. Review of MERC Resolutions

4.1 MERC Resolution No. 95-5, Authorizing the General Manager to Execute an Agreement with Portland Center Stage

Harriet Sherburne, PCPA Director, presented the MERC Resolutions before the Council, copies of which are included in the record of this meeting.

4.2 MERC Resolution No. 95-6, Approving Rental Policy for the Portland Center for the Performing Arts

4.3 MERC Resolution No. 95-7, Approving Rental Rate Schedules at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts for FY 95-96; 96-97; and 97-98

Ms. Sherburne discussed items 4.2 and 4.3 concurrently. She discussed how the rent structure was developed in concurrence with the business plan. In response to Councilor McLain, Ms. Sherburne noted the 95-96 proposed budget included the rates approved by the above mentioned resolutions. In response to Councilor Morissette, Ms. Sherburne discussed past staff reductions. Councilor Monroe discussed past action related to stabilizing funding of the arts facilities.

4.4 MERC Resolution No. 95-8, Authorizing the Chairman and the Secretary/Treasurer to execute an Automated Ticketing Services Agreement with Ticketmaster and a second one with Fastixx, wherein the two ticket agents will provide automated ticketing services for the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Civic Stadium for the period April 1, 1995 to December 31, 1997

In response to Councilor Kvistad, Ms. Sherburne noted box office tickets include service charges because the terminals were owned by the ticketing agents. Casey Short, Senior Council Analyst, noted Fastixx was a locally owned organization.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Discussion of Metro Washington Park Zoo Entrance and the Zoo Master Plan

Councilor Washington introduced the item and summarized a handout entitled Council Actions Regarding the Zoo Master Plan, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. He noted the item was informational only. He summarized activities and variables used in discussion of the Zoo. He highlighted policy issues related to continued operation of the facility.

Mike Burton, Executive Officer, distributed and summarized the Zoo Revenue/Expenditure Comparison, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Sherry Sheng, Metro Washington Park Zoo Director, distributed and presented an overview of the Metro Washington Park Zoo, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Jesus Gonzalez, Zoo Keeper, 6665 SW 185th Ave., Aloha, OR, appeared to testify. He expressed concern about similar exhibits in the state, Oregon Coast Aquarium, High Desert Museum and other attractions. He noted a reptile exhibit and children's zoo were also items of high interest.

Councilor Morissette noted he had concerns about duplication of education services with OMSI and with similar projects such as the Oregon Coast Aquarium. He noted he favored maintaining a first class zoo operation. He stated he would like to hear from other interest groups as to their opinion of the proposed Oregon Territory! project.

Councilor Washington stated several decisions needed to be made including: is anything going to be done; and if anything, what are the timelines. Presiding Officer McFarland noted the master plan did not commit funds, but established an ideal for future development.

In response to Councilor Kvistad, Ms. Sheng stated the staff would need specific direction from the Council to determine how to proceed with plans for the future. Councilor Kvistad stated he desired to move forward, with or without a bond measure. He favored a \$250,000 minimum line item to fund continued work. He stated the Zoo was the second most important thing Metro did (second to growth management), noting the Zoo was the only thing Metro did to incorporate children in the region. Mr. Burton noted he had allocated funds in the proposed budget to move forward with portions of the master plan development.

Councilor Washington noted he had not heard any Councilor state the Zoo was not important. He called for the continued preservation of the resource and the establishing of priorities for Metro.

Councilor McLain called for discussions with supporting partner groups to discuss timing issues. She called for continued discussion in phases.

Councilor McCaig discussed her position on the role of the Council with regard to the potential process. She stated she would examine all of the issues before Metro and make decisions based on the needs and priorities of the region.

Mr. Burton stressed the importance of maintaining the economic viability of the Zoo. The Council and Executive Officer discussed the timing of construction and placement of a potential bond measure. Councilor Monroe spoke to marketability of the region in relation to the proposed project.

John Inskeep, President Elect, Friends of the Zoo, 2726 SW 28th Ct., Portland, OR, 97219 appeared to testify. He noted without the enthusiastic support of the community, any potential bond measure would not pass. He expressed concern about the lack of a sense of excitement about the project, especially from the public. In response to Councilor Morissette, Mr. Inskeep stated the support of the Friends of the Zoo was luke-warm on the current project. He stated staff and Council support of the project would aid in increasing the interest of the Friends group. He stated many projects were underbudgeted and the Friends would not be in a position to make up funding differences. He noted for a \$35 million project, the Friends would potentially fund \$5 million and the proposed bond measure figure was approximately \$9 million short of project completion. He expressed concern about people being supportive of certain aspects of the project.

5.2 Discussion of Future Vision

Councilor McLain discussed the Future Vision Commission activity, specifically the recent work of the editor. She summarized the schedule for the continued work of the Future Vision Commission. Robert Texture, Len Fraiser,

and Peggy Lynch, Future Vision Commission members were present to discuss the work of the commission. Mr. Fraiser discussed the schedule, the editor, and thanked Metro staff. Ms. Lynch called for public support of the vision. Mr. Texture stated the group was working hard and felt the document was representative of the desire of the region's citizens. He called for public support and outreach of the document.

Presiding Officer McFarland and Councilors Morissette, McLain, and Washington thanked the Future Vision Commission for their hard work and participation in developing the document. Councilor McLain noted the desired intent of the document was to evoke response from the public. She called for continued dialogue with the public in the development of the final document.

The Council conceded that the Future Vision Commission document would remain in tact, allowing for Council comments to be forwarded for discussion. Councilor Morissette noted some of the document went beyond the scope of work.

6. Councilor Communications

None.

7. Legislative Issues

7.1 Discussion of Legislative Priorities and Strategies

Item not discussed.

With no further business before the Council, Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Prepared by,



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