

MINUTES OF METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Council Chamber

February 28, 1995

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

Councilors Absent: Don Morissette

Presiding Officer McFarland called the February 28, 1995 Metro Council Work Session to order at 2:04 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Discussion of the Draft Whitaker Ponds Management Plan

Councilor Washington introduced Jane Hart, Project Manager, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, and Doug Macy, Walker & Macy, who were present to brief the Council on the Whitaker Ponds Concept Master Plan. Councilor Washington used a map and a large aerial photo provided by the consultants to demonstrate the location of the Whitaker Ponds, noting they were in Northeast Portland in the Columbia Slough watershed.

Ms. Hart addressed the Council, noting the concept plan agreed with the Greenspaces Master Plan, and explained the process undertaken to develop the plan, including public involvement activities such as creation of an independent advisory panel, community workshops and public meetings. She noted other project participants included among others the Portland Public Schools and Envirocorps, and said there had been news coverage regarding the project as well.

Mr. Macy addressed the Council and acknowledged the work of the consulting team which he said included SRI/SHAPIRO, who had performed professional services including the preparation of a Concept Master Plan document. He said parties concerned and taken into consideration included residents as well as industrial neighbors. Mr. Macy utilized the map and aerial photo to illustrate his remarks, and noted an Environmental Learning Center was planned for the area, which he indicated would be beneficial for school students' use. Mr. Macy discussed a proposed program for developing the ponds for fishing for kids. In response to Councilor Monroe, Mr. Macy indicated nesting areas for wildlife were incorporated in the plan. In response to Presiding Officer McFarland, Mr. Macy indicated dredging the ponds was an important part of the plan in order to proceed with other aspects including plantings.

Councilor McLain remarked that on a recent visit to the area she had encountered a heavy equipment operator moving earth toward the edge of the ponds, and expressed concern regarding the activity. Ms. Hart indicated the activity had ceased.

Councilor Washington briefly discussed the history of the ponds, and said he felt the opportunity presented by the project was unique and would be beneficial.

4.2 Report on the Cascadia Conference

Councilor Monroe reported to the Council regarding a recent meeting in which he had represented the Metro Council, the Cascadia Conference held February 16 and 17. He described the area encompassed by "Cascadia," as the region extending from Eugene to Vancouver, B.C. to the Cascade mountain range and noted included were three major Northwest metropolitan areas/ports, Greater Portland/Vancouver, Seattle-Tacoma, and Greater Vancouver, B.C., with a population total of over 6.5 million.

Councilor Monroe said land use planning attempts to control sprawl throughout the Cascadia region, both actual and potential, had been discussed as well as various similarities and differences. He said plans for high speed rail were discussed at the conference and said it was hoped that running time between Portland and Seattle would be reduced to three hours and then to two hours some time in the future. He said in May a train was planned to start up again between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. Councilor Monroe said plans were discussed for a regional Olympics for the year 2004 or 2008. He said there was discussion about a "two nation vacation," meaning a vacation in Oregon (including Portland), Washington (including Seattle), and Vancouver, B.C. and other Canadian spots. He said in private meetings held following the conference, it was agreed to get together once a year along with other senior officials with regionalist expertise, looking at the first meeting to be held in June, 1995 to talk about regional issues of mutual concern. He noted the meetings were planned to rotate among the three major Northwest cities of Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver B.C.

4.3 Discussion of Citi-Speak Survey

Merrie Waylett, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Relations, addressed the Council, and said for the last four years Metro had contracted with Western Attitudes to conduct the Citi-Speak Surveys to obtain opinion polls. She introduced Noel Klein, who presented the current survey dated February 1995 to the Council. A copy of the survey document has been made part of the permanent meeting record.

In response to Councilor McCaig, Mr. Klein said four such surveys had been conducted over the last 4 1/2 years at a cost of approximately \$2,500 per survey. Councilor McCaig noted that in 1994 more money had been spent on elections than in the history of Metro, which she believed helped bring a greater awareness of Metro to the citizens of region.

Councilor McLain indicated she found the surveys useful, and suggested the Council might undertake discussion regarding how they would wish to utilize the surveys in the future. She noted the survey indicated the best sources for information included television, and she noted the television program, "Metro Matters" had not appeared in the FY 95-96 Proposed Budget. Councilor McLain indicated she intended to advocate for the program and its usefulness.

Councilor Monroe commented on some of the similarities and differences in attitudes between Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties as indicated in the survey. Mr. Klein said there had been a shift in attitudes in Washington County toward Metro the farther west one went.

Councilor Washington referenced page 11 of the survey and asked if responses had been gleaned from District No. 5 where Metro facilities were located. Mr. Klein said extremes only had been polled.

4.4 Report on NARC Conference and Congressional visits

Ms. Waylett referenced a memorandum dated February 21, 1995 from herself and Andy Cotugno, Director of Planning, regarding the 1995 National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Washington Policy Conference and Congressional Office Visits which had occurred February 4 through 7, 1995. This document has been made

part of the permanent meeting record. She asked the Council to give attention to the area in the memorandum concerning a proposed reorganization of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Ms. Waylett noted Metro's plans for an electronic bulletin board had been received with much interest, and said Metro was out in front in the nation with this project.

Ms. Waylett touched on the congressional office visits that had occurred as described in the memorandum, and said the light rail project, the earthquake program, and the Greenspaces program among others had been the focus of the meetings. Ms. Waylett discussed a meeting with Richard Moore, FEMA deputy director in charge of mitigations programs which focused on Metro's joint earthquake program.

Presiding Officer McFarland moved previous Agenda Item No. 6 forward to be heard at this time (now No. 5).

5. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Mr. Klein commented on activities at the legislature concerning Metro. He said a summary of the bills of interest would be before the Council on Thursday, March 2, 1995 for discussion and review.

Councilor McLain asked about the Homebuilder's tax deferral bill recently introduced. Mr. Klein said the outcome was unsure. Councilor McLain indicated she was involved in discussions and meeting with constituents. She asked that Mr. Klein give her a phone call if there were any changes.

Councilor Kvistad said he was actively opposing the amendment regarding number of members on the Boundary Commission, and said he felt the membership should be left at seven.

Councilor McLain indicated the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) were involved in discussion regarding the Boundary Commission changes.

Presiding Officer McFarland noted the Council had a responsibility to form a committee in September regarding the matter.

Ms. Waylett indicated the Councilors had received a memorandum inviting them to go to Salem for a visit to meet with some of the legislators, and asked that Councilors wishing to go let her office know in order that arrangements might be made.

Councilor Monroe indicated he planned to attend the SDAO meeting on Monday which would be completed by noon, and said he would be available to meet with some of the legislators at that time if that was workable. He asked that Ms. Waylett let him know by Friday.

Ms. Waylett indicated she felt such visits would be beneficial and encouraged the Councilors to do so.

Presiding Officer McFarland asked that Agenda Item No. 4.5 be heard at this time.

4.5 Discussion of Future Vision

Councilor McLain referenced a memorandum dated February 28, 1995, which was distributed to the Council and has been made part of the permanent meeting record. She said the work of the Future Vision Commission had been completed the previous week, and said the goal of 2,000 words in the document before the Council had been nearly met with 2,021 words. She said the material contained in the document represented the Future Vision Commission's recommendation of material for inclusion in the March newsletter. She asked the Council to review the material and give comment. Councilor McLain expressed concern about the deadlines involved.

Councilor Kvistad indicated he was prepared to suggest possible changes in the language in the document.

Councilor McLain responded to an inquiry from Councilor McCaig, and indicated the purpose of the public hearing "listening posts" was to obtain input for the Council to draw from regarding the Future Vision plan. Councilor McCaig suggested waiting until the public hearings occurred before making revisions. Councilor Kvistad indicated he did not favor that process and supported related budget reductions. Councilor McLain indicated the funding for the printing and the "listening posts" was in the FY 1994-95 Adopted Budget and available through June 30, 1995.

Councilor McCaig suggested a disclaimer be inserted at the end of the document indicating the work was summary of the work of the Future Vision Commission submitted to the Metro Council to be reviewed by the public and the Council and adopted by July, 1995.

Presiding Officer McFarland indicated she felt it was appropriate to send the material out as the work of the Future Vision Commission in the March newsletter. Councilor McLain recalled Council decisions had been made previously regarding the forwarding of the work of the Future Vision Commission to the "listening posts" and the timelines involved.

Presiding Officer McFarland said she felt more time was necessary to review the material further. Councilor Washington noted Councilor McLain had indicated changes could still be made until July. Councilor McLain concurred.

Councilor Kvistad clarified he was not in favor of putting out the material in the March newsletter as it stood, and presented his comments regarding changes in the language in the document.

Motion: Councilor McCaig moved to send the proposed newsletter without any changes with the notation that this document reflected a digest of the work of the Future Vision Commission. Councilor Monroe seconded the motion.

Vote: Councilors Kvistad, McCaig, McLain, Monroe, Washington and McFarland voted aye. Councilor Morissette was absent.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor McCaig commented that the Work Sessions as currently structured did not represent what she believed to be of the greatest value for the work of the Council. She said it appeared that the Work Session agendas were a compilation of numerous reports from staff, rather than an opportunity for dialogue and/or action.

Presiding Officer McFarland asked the Council for feedback regarding Councilor McCaig's concerns.

Councilor Kvistad suggested a work day be held to discuss fully the way in which the Council does business and to work on resolving such concerns.

Councilor McLain commented she felt one of the important elements for the Work Sessions was information sharing and dialogue between the Councilors. She noted there were matters which were currently in the process stage for which ordinances and/or resolutions would be forthcoming in the future.

Councilor Monroe discussed the differences in the way in which the Metro Council did business in the past in the form of Standing Committees and the current Council as a Whole.

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Presiding Officer McFarland indicated such a work shop could be scheduled to work on these issues, and discussed the impact made by the change at the beginning of the year to a new Council of seven. She said the current format was new and experimental.

Councilor McLain suggested an agenda item be incorporated in the Work Session agendas such as "Emerging Issues." Presiding Officer McFarland indicated she was willing to accept suggestions for agenda items from all of the Councilors.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn E. Geary-Symons
Council Assistant

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APPROVED
Date 03/09/1995