

Minutes of the Metro Council  
March 9, 1995  
Council Chamber

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

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

**1. Introductions**

None.

**2. Citizen Communications**

None.

**3. Executive Officer Communications**

None.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Consideration of Minutes for the February 28, 1995 Work Session meeting and March 2, 1995 Metro Council Meeting**

Motion: Councilor Kvistad moved, seconded by Councilor Monroe to approved Minutes.

Vote: All those present voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**5. ORDINANCES FIRST READINGS**

**5.1 Ordinance No. 95-588, An Ordinance Amending The FY 1994-95 Budget And Appropriations Schedule To Reflect A Grant Received By Metro Washington Park Zoo, And Declaring An Emergency**

Councilor Washington noted the grant would study the effects of the noise from tunnel blasting on zoo animals.

**5.2 Ordinance No. 95-594, An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Revising Metro Code Chapter 2.02, Personnel Rules For Non-Represented Employees**

John Houser, Senior Council Analyst, presented the staff report. He noted the purpose was to provide limitations to the educational benefits for non-represented employees. He said the intent was to clarify the existing rules and provide guidelines for management in granting educational benefits.

Presiding Officer McFarland opened the public meeting. She noted she would not take public testimony from any represented employees due to collective bargaining.

Councilor McLain asked if the classes addressed courses mandated by Metro. Paula Paris, Personnel Director, stated the coursework in question was for non-mandated, job related coursework.

Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, appeared to testify. She noted she supervised employees taking advantage of the educational program. She distributed and summarized tuition rates and benefits of other jurisdictions, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. The handout summarized other jurisdictions' policy and provided accurate tuition rates for Portland State University (\$128 per credit hour for undergraduates and \$213 per credit hour for graduates). She asked for Council consideration of the significant cost of education in the establishing of a limit on educational reimbursement.

Ms. Paris stated she contacted the registrars office at Portland State University for cost of courses. She stated a graduate level course cost from \$69 to \$153. Councilor Monroe noted the prices sounded very low and he requested figures for community colleges and local universities. He called for breakdowns for graduate and undergraduate costs. Presiding Officer McFarland requested from Ms Paris figures in writing from the area institutions.

Councilor Washington requested cost break information for full-time students also.

Councilor Morissette asked what the current policy was with regard to educational benefits. Ms. Paris stated the non-represented code was changed about a year ago to reflect the coursework needed to be related to the position. She noted the issue was a mandatory subject to bargaining issue. She noted they did not bargain anything with represented employees on this issue. Ms. Paris stated there was money in the budget for educational reimbursement and it varied by department. Councilor Morissette called for examination of how the money was spent and the benefit Metro received. Mr. Houser noted the funds needed to be budgeted prior to expenditure. Councilor Morissette requested information on funds available in the budget for educational benefits.

Councilor Washington requested written information from other jurisdictions and private companies to compare benefits.

## **6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **6.1 Presentation of Feasibility Study For Peninsula Crossing Trail (40 Mile Loop).**

Councilor McLain introduced David Evans and Associates. Bob Akers, 40 Mile Acres Land Trust Director, presented information on the trails. He presented the feasibility study, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. Mel Stout, David Evans and Associates, was present to discuss the feasibility study. Jim Sebert, David Evans and Associates presented a slide show. Councilor Monroe spoke to a desire to have crossing alternatives for the higher speed bicyclists.

Mel Huie, Senior Regional Planner, noted the trail was significant to the region, coordinated with many jurisdictions and was multi-modal.

Presiding Officer McFarland thanked former Councilor Sandi Hansen, Barbara Walker, Dorethea Lynch, and Ernie Drapella for their assistance on the project.

### **6.2 Report on American Legion Convention cancellation**

Councilor Washington discussed the withdrawal of the American Legion Convention from the Portland area.

Jeff Blosser, OCC Manager, introduced Gary Grimmer, P/OVA Executive Director. Mr. Grimmer expressed his disappointment that the American Legion withdrew. He stated the Sunday, March 5, 1995 Oregonian article was a fairly accurate account of the events, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. He stated he disagreed with the understanding of the Legion's position. He noted with a convention of this size, it was surprising that the hotel room blocks had not been secured. Mr. Grimmer noted the \$40,000 issue was resolved in October 1994. He said the Legion was still considered a client and would continue to be considered a client.

Councilor McCaig asked what P/OVA did to assist the Legion in meeting the timelines. Mr. Grimmer responded by stating he had reviewed the file and found that P/OVA had responded appropriately. Tim Estes, Vice Chair P/OVA, concurred with the review of the Legion file. He noted very little was done in writing and the majority of business was conducted orally. Councilor McCaig questioned why more

wasn't required in writing. Mr. Grimmer stated the situation was nearly unprecedented. Mr. Estes noted the hospitality business does not always enforce the requirements of a written contract and very few penalties were included in the contracts.

Councilor Morissette suggested improving procedures to reduce the chance of repeating the situation. He called for continued effort to locate the Legion's convention in Portland.

Councilor Washington suggested decision makers be identified early in the process. Mr. Grimmer stated he was aware of the decision makers. He discussed the booking process for a convention.

Phil Peach, Oregon Lodging Association, discussed his surprise at the cancellation of the convention. He urged a thorough review of the situation.

Mr. Grimmer noted the hotels had been asked to hold the rooms through March 17, 1995 in the event the Legion were to change it's mind again. Mr. Blosser noted the OCC was reserved until that date, noting the OCC was historically underutilized on Labor Day.

Councilor Washington called for Metro involvement in the review of the P/OVA file.

#### 8. LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Merrie Waylett, Office of Government and Public Affairs, reported that the Metro Boundary Commission Bill was currently dead in the Legislature. She discussed the situation with the Metro Boundary Commission. She noted Metro would still need to conduct a study and submit findings and recommendations to the 1997 Legislature. She said the Commission will consist of 7 members until that time. Presiding Officer McFarland noted MPAC had agreed to participate in the study. Councilor McLain note MPAC would continue to discuss the study and the role of MPAC related to the issue of the Boundary Commission.

Councilor Monroe noted the functions of the Boundary Commission and how Metro might accomplish those mandates should be examined.

Councilor McLain noted important transportation and land use votes would be made next week at the Legislature. She called for other Councilors to assist in contacting Legislators.

#### 7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor McLain updated the Council on the activities of the March 8, 1995 MPAC meeting. She noted she had some issues that could have been placed on the canceled March 14, 1995 Work Session. She asked that in the future Councilors be asked if they have items to be discussed when the agenda is short or scheduled to be canceled.

With no further business before the Council, Presiding Officer adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared by,



Susan Lee, CMC  
Council Assistant

**APPROVED**  
Date 3/10/95