

APPROVED
Date 5-26-93

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 24, 1993
Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Rod Monroe (Chair), Roger Buchanan,
Jon Kvistad, George Van Bergen

Committee Members Absent: Richard Devlin (Vice Chair)

Other Councilors Present: Sandi Hansen, Jim Gardner, Susan
McLain, Ruth McFarland, Terry Moore

Chair Monroe called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. ZOO OPERATING FUND

A. Overview and Revenue Summary

Sherry Sheng, Zoo Director, discussed the Zoo budget. She discussed the budget from issues of policy consideration. She noted the directive of the Zoo was to be fiscally self-sufficient and provide the best possible visitor experience. She spoke to the new Oregon Exhibit and the potential admission increase.

Ms. Sheng presented comparison figures from 1988-89 fiscal year with the proposed 1993-94 budget. She compared both the revenue and expenses. The figures indicated growth during those years.

Ms. Sheng discussed the projected revenue and expense figures during the construction of the light rail and Highway 26.

Councilor Van Bergen discussed alternative funding sources for the Zoo. He stated some far reaching ideas might need to be considered to find new funding sources.

B. Division Summaries

o Administration

Kay Rich, Assistant Director, summarized the program narrative included in the budget notebook.

Robb Rudd, Development Officer, discussed the Development Office as included in the program narrative included in the budget notebook. He discussed the grants received from various foundations.

o Visitor Services

Theresa Metke, Visitor Services Manager, summarized the program narrative included in the budget notebook. She summarized the success of the Visitor Services Division at the Zoo. She said the catering efforts would be increased. She discussed the proposed purchase of a popcorn cart.

o Facilities Management

Dr. Rich discussed the Facilities Management program narrative included in the budget notebook.

o Marketing

Jane Hartline, Marketing Manager, summarized the program narrative included in the budget notebook. She discussed areas the division would be focussing on for increasing revenues. She discussed the special events. She presented justification for the addition of a .5 FTE Secretary position.

o Animal Management

Dennis Pate, Curator, presented the program narrative included in the budget notebook.

o Educational Services

David Mask, Education Manager, summarized the program narrative included in the budget notebook.

o Design Services
o Zoo Capital Fund

Jennifer Agnew, Graphics Coordinator, presented the program narratives included in the budget notebook.

Councilor Hansen noted the water and sewer bill should be discussed with the City of Portland for possible reduced rates. Ms. Sheng noted she would pursue conversations related to the water and sewer bill.

Councilor Van Bergen noted a proposed tax study committee may be formed. He noted the Zoo should be included in those conversations.

B. Contingency/Transfers/Unappropriated Balance

Dr. Rich presented the contingency/transfers/unappropriated balance narratives as included in the budget notebook.

2. ZOO REVENUE BOND FUND

Jennifer Sims, FMI Director, presented the Zoo Revenue Bond Fund. She discussed the bond issuance to meet the local match obligation for construction of the light rail project. She noted several policy issues would need to be discussed prior to final decision of the plan of action.

Councilor Van Bergen expressed concerns about the bonds. He

recognized the agreement for the local match was committed, but he questioned the approach. Councilor McLain asked for consideration about alternative options. Ms. Sims said other options were examined and the proposed plan was a bond. Councilor McLain requested additional options be presented for discussion. Ms. Sims noted the bond was proposed to be repaid with parking revenues to be charged following the opening of the light rail station at the Zoo. She also noted negotiations would need to occur with the two other parties who share the parking lot.

Chair Monroe said the price of parking may affect the number of visitors to the Zoo. He noted the revenues to pay the bonds would not start being collected until 1997 while debt service payment on the bond would begin earlier. Ms. Sims noted improvements would also need to be made to the Zoo parking lot. Ms. Sheng spoke to the issue of determining a way to eliminate the use of the Zoo lot as a park and ride station.

Chair Monroe recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Chair Monroe reconvened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

3. CONVENTION CENTER PROJECT DEBT SERVICE FUND

Ms. Sims summarized the Convention Center Debt Service Fund. She noted the fund was refinanced last spring.

4. METROPOLITAN E-R COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Ron Kawamoto, MERC Commissioner, gave an overview of the budget as included in the proposed budget document. He discussed the changes that occurred in the past year. He spoke to the transfer of the Memorial Coliseum to the Trailblazers.

5. MERC ADMINISTRATION FUND

Jeff Blosser, Acting General Manager, summarized the MERC Administration Fund.

Councilor Hansen asked what functions staff perform in the execution of their duties. Dominic Buffetta, Director of Finance and Administration, discussed the work of the staff.

6. OREGON CONVENTION CENTER OPERATING FUND

Mr. Blosser summarized the Oregon Convention Center Operating Fund included in the proposed budget document. He discussed business projections and staff requirements. He noted high occupancy levels were achieved. He said the national convention bookings increased.

7. CONVENTION CENTER RENEWAL & REPLACEMENT FUND

Mr. Blosser explained the fund was a new fund. He noted the fund would pay for capital renewal and replacement projects. He noted carpet replacement, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements will create a need for changes.

Casey Short, Council Analyst, noted \$500,000 was duplicated in the operating fund. Mr. Blosser agreed that the figure was duplicated and would be removed.

8. COLISEUM OPERATING FUND

Mr. Buffetta summarized the Coliseum Operating Fund included in the proposed budget document. He discussed the options included in the transfer of the Coliseum to the Trailblazers.

9. SPECTATOR FACILITIES OPERATING FUND

A. Portland Center for the Performing Arts

Robert Freedman, PCPA Director, summarized the PCPA Budget as included in the proposed budget document. He noted changes in the budget related to the transfer of the Memorial Coliseum. He pointed out that the PCPA operates at a loss and new funding sources need to be identified.

The Committee discussed the catering revenues.

In response to Councilor Buchanan, Mr. Freedman noted the Facilities Funding Task Force was examining ways to fund the operation.

Councilor Hansen asked if any facilities were heated or cooled by water. She noted the City of Portland would not charge for water used for such systems. Mr. Blosser said he would examine the issue.

B. Civic Stadium

Candy Cavanagh, Sales and Marketing Manager, summarized the Civic Stadium budget. She noted the significant changes to the budget would be an increase in FTE to reflect the loss of Memorial Coliseum staff that performed functions for the Civic Stadium.

Councilor Van Bergen encouraged the PCPA to participate in the proposed tax study committee.

Councilor Van Bergen spoke to the issues of the potential for certain Multnomah County facilities to be transferred to MERC for

management. He requested MERC to advise the Committee on their position related to those issues. Commissioner Kawamoto said they were now being included in those conversations. He noted improvements should be made to the facilities prior to assuming operations. He noted other issues would also need to be considered.

Commissioner Kawamoto invited Councilors to attend any events in MERC Facilities in which they may be interested.

Pam Baker, Chair of the PCPA Advisory Committee, was present to discuss the proposed budget. She noted the advisory committee was examining the budget and looking for new revenue sources.

The Committee discussed the programming mix at the facilities.

With no further business before the Committee, Chair Monroe adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee
Committee Recorder