

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT  
March 31, 1988

Committee Members Present: Tanya Collier\* (Chair), George Van Bergen\* (V. Chair), Tom Balmer, Gretchen Buehner, Jim Gardner,\* Gary Hansen,\* Steven Harloff, Ron Hohnstein, David Knowles,\* Phillip Korten and Dapo Sobomehin

Committee Members Absent: None

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

ZOO DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Budget Presentation

Zoo Director Sherry Sheng, Assistant Director Kay Rich and division managers presented an overview of the FY 1988-89 Budget including revenue projections, anticipated capital project expenditures and division budget programs.

Public Testimony

Richard Steinfeld, Friends of the Zoo President, discussed the Friends' relationship with the Zoo. The Friends anticipated donating funds to the Zoo to purchase animals for the new Africa Exhibit and vans for mobile education programs. Mr. Steinfeld supported staff's proposal for in-house security, photography and maintenance services previously provided by outside contractors. He advocated the continuation of marketing and graphics programs at the Zoo due to their highly specialized nature. Finally, Mr. Steinfeld expressed concern about the rising cost of central services charged to the Zoo by way of a transfer to the General Fund. He thought the size of the transfer could be difficult to explain to the voting public when the Zoo went out for the another tax levy or a tax base. He also invited Budget Committee members to attend Friends of the Zoo meetings and commended the Zoo staff for their high level of dedication and professionalism.

Work Session: Questions, Concerns and Suggestions

- \* Ron Hohnstein requested the Veterinary Technician job title and description be changed to reflect a higher level of responsibility over private sector technician jobs. He also thought the salary proposed for the Veterinarian was too low.
- \* Chair Collier was very concerned that graphics did not convey a clear message to visitors that the Zoo was an integral part of the Metropolitan Service District. She requested Jane Hartline, Zoo Department Marketing Manager, and Vickie Rucker, Public

Affairs Director, develop a program plan and budget for the Budget Committee to review the following week for getting the message to the Zoo visitor that the Zoo and Metro were one and the same.

- \* Gretchen Buehner thought graphics for the new Africa Exhibit would be an excellent place to start a new program of identifying the Zoo with Metro.
- \* Councilor Van Bergen requested the Committee review a long-range capitalization plan for the Zoo in order to determine whether the proposed FY 1988-89 budget was consistent with the adopted Master Plan. The long-range plan would also be needed to make decisions about upcoming elections concerning Zoo funding.
- \* Gretchen Buehner suggested a "capital subcommittee" of the Budget Committee could meet in the fall to examine one, two, five and ten-year plans. The subcommittee's findings and recommendations would then be forwarded to the FY 1990 Budget Committee for consideration.
- \* Councilor Gardner asked Zoo staff provide a list of programs or items that could be purchased if the transfer to the General Fund had not been increased by \$302,324. Sherry Sheng said she would respond to the question in writing.
- \* Chair Collier asked that copies of the Zoo Master Plan be made available to Budget Committee members wanting that information.

#### Zoo Committee Report

Sharron Kelley, Zoo Committee Chair, reported the Committee would meet the following week to discuss the proposed FY 1988-89 Budget and to make recommendations to the Budget Committee. She had polled Zoo Committee members about their general concerns relating to the new budget. The Zoo Committee was generally concerned about:

- \* Whether Metro should proceed with the Aquarium project
- \* Whether the Zoo's financial policies were sound. (Should surplus Operations Fund revenue be transferred to fund capital projects? Should admission rates be increased when surplus Operations Fund revenues were higher than anticipated? Should new exhibits continue to be built that would result in operations and admission fee increases?)

- \* Whether the \$302,324 increase in the Transfer to the General Fund was justified. (Had the cost of other department programs actually resulted in the need to increase the size of the General Fund budget?)

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

#### Budget Presentation

Ray Phelps, Planning and Development Director, introduced key department staff who would describe the budget programs. The presentation was interrupted, however, by questions concerning major objectives of the new department.

#### Public Testimony

None.

#### Work Session: Questions, Concerns and Suggestions

- \* Chair Collier and Councilor Van Bergen asked staff to respond to concerns about how transferring all land use planning functions to the Planning and Development department would effect the Solid Waste Functional Planning process. Would the transfer of staff result in a reduction to the Solid Waste Department budget? Would the reorganization result in a delay to the Functional Planning Process? When would the Functional Plan be completed? How would plans for the proposed East Transfer and Recycling Center effect the Functional Plan schedule?
- \* Phillip Korten said it seemed staff from several departments were trying to complete the Functional Planning process without adequate coordination, without clear goals and without realistic priorities. He suggested staff work to resolve those problems as soon as possible.
- \* Gretchen Buehner thought staff's proposed regional land information system looked very much like a plan produced three years ago by the City of Portland that had been cut because of lack of interest from other jurisdictions. She questioned how the program was different from the one attempted by the City.
- \* Councilor Hansen asked staff to explain who would be in charge of the Functional Planning process. Staff and Councilors should be able to get answers from one person, he explained.
- \* Councilor Van Bergen asked staff to respond in writing to the questions raised in Don Carlson's memo dated March 30, 1988.

- \* Tom Balmer asked staff to prioritize proposed programs and present a plan for how the top priority programs would be accomplished. Which programs were mandated by the legislature? Which programs reflected Council-adopted policy? Which programs could be postponed?
- \* Don Carlson, Council Administrator, said he would identify major areas of concern regarding the Planning & Development budget and have staff respond in writing. Richard Owings, Solid Waste Director, would be present at future discussions concerning the Functional Planning process.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Marie Nelson  
Clerk of the Council

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