

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

January 11, 1994

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Mike Gates (Chair), George Van Bergen (Vice Chair), Judy Wyers

Committee Members Excused: Roger Buchanan

Chair Gates called the regular meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. Consideration of December 16, 1993 Joint Governmental Affairs and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved to approve the December 16, 1993 Joint Governmental Affairs and Finance Committee Meeting minutes.

Vote: Councilors Wyers, Van Bergen and Gates voted aye.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Communications from Local Governments

No communications.

3. Committee Discussion of Metro Participation in FOCUS

John Houser, Council Analyst, presented the staff report, and referenced the documents contained in the record regarding FOCUS dues assessment for the period of July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994. Mr. Houser noted a letter from Donald E. Carlson, Council Administrator, dated December 17, 1993 requested an explanation for the increase in the dues from \$8,800 to \$9,900. He referenced a response letter dated January 11, 1994 from McKeever/Morris, Inc., which was distributed to the Committee. This document has been made part of the permanent meeting record.

The Committee discussed Metro's continued membership in FOCUS. Chair Gates recommended Metro withdraw from FOCUS. Councilor Van Bergen asked whether Metro had some kind of moral obligation to remain as members of FOCUS. Chair Gates believed that was not the case. The Committee discussed possible withdrawal from membership. Mr. Houser noted a seat had been created for a Metro Representative to serve on the Steering Committee.

In response to Councilor Wyers, Chair Gates said the full FOCUS committee met at a time conflicting with Metro Council or Council Committee meeting times, and added he was not aware of what time the FOCUS Steering Committee met.

In response to Chair Gates, Merrie Waylett, Office of Government Relations, said she believed there was not a great value with FOCUS assistance for Metro programs. She said she was aware of other jurisdictions that had elected not to be members due to budget constraints and because they felt there was not enough direct relation to what they were doing.

In response to Chair Gates, Ms. Waylett said she could not say whether there could be specific political repercussions should Metro withdraw from FOCUS.

Chair Gates commented that when one of the local governments made it clear they were having to choose between paying their voluntary dues to Metro and paying their dues to FOCUS it became an impetus for Chair Gates himself to further the conversation. He commented Metro provided direct service, and felt FOCUS was a place to talk.

Chair Gates directed Council Staff to draft a resolution to withdraw from FOCUS to be filed with the Clerk of the Council for consideration by the Metro Council, and to notify FOCUS of such.

4. Ordinance No. 94-523, For the Purpose of Approving the Revision of the Metro Code Chapter 2.02, Personnel Rules

Chair Gates referenced a petition signed by a number of Metro employees which has been made part of the permanent meeting record concerned with the proposed change in sick leave transfer policy.

Paula Paris, Personnel Manager, presented the staff report, and referenced her staff report dated November 1, 1993 as well as her memorandum dated January 5, 1994. Both documents were available and distributed at the meeting and are part of the permanent record.

Ms. Paris reviewed briefly the proposed changes to the Personnel Code and reviewed the proposed amendments for the Committee. Ms. Paris referenced page 2.02-39 of the proposed ordinance, Section 2.02.145, concerned with the present and proposed sick leave transfer policy. Ms. Paris noted no employer surveyed allowed for transfer of sick leave from one employee to another. The survey results were contained in the record for this meeting. Ms. Paris noted representatives from both represented and non-represented employees had addressed the Committee at a previous Governmental Affairs meeting held December 2, 1993 requesting the present policy allowing for transfer of sick leave remain.

Councilor Van Bergen suggested inquiry be made of the Internal Revenue Service and the Tax Supervisory Conservation Commission concerning the current policy. Ms. Paris responded to Councilor Buchanan noting the kinds of employers surveyed, and said Metro had not checked with the federal government as to their policy. Councilor Buchanan recommended the federal government be asked and suggested other major corporations in the private sector be asked as well.

Ms. Paris referenced a memorandum from Casey Short, Council Analyst, dated December 2, 1993. This document was available at the meeting and distributed to the Committee. It was retained as part of the permanent record. Ms. Paris highlighted referenced areas of proposed change as outlined in Mr. Short's memorandum and the issues for discussion as detailed by Mr. Short in his memorandum.

Ms. Paris referenced Section 2.02.60 of the proposed ordinance, Section 2.02.060 Salary Administration. The Committee and Staff discussed the proposed changes which would eliminate guaranteed cost-of-living-adjustments for non-represented employees, and would include merit increases as compensation.

The Committee and Staff discussed timing for Section 2.02.60. Chair Gates suggested July 1, 1995 as a date for implementation of the proposed changes in the Salary Administration policies. He responded to Councilor Van Bergen's question concerning the timing, and said he felt allowing enough time would enable a process of review with the bargaining units while moving forward with the policy as it would involve non-represented employees.

The Committee continued discussion of proposed changes to the Personnel Code and issues as detailed in Mr. Short's memorandum. Ms. Paris referenced Section 2.02.65, page 2.02.21 of the proposed ordinance. Chair Wyers inquired regarding the referenced "new Executive Order." Dick Engstrom, Deputy Executive Officer, addressed the Committee, and noted an ordinance adopted by the Metro Council set the criteria for charitable organizations for which decisions could be made. Councilor Wyers objected to the changes proposed in the revisions to Section 2.02.65.

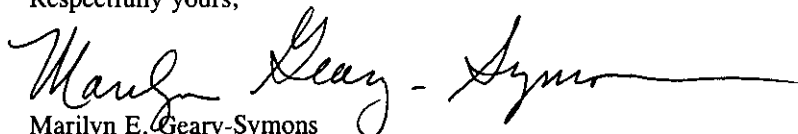
Chair Gates opened a public hearing. No citizens appeared before the Committee to testify. Chair Gates closed the public hearing.

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Chair Gates continued the matter for consideration to the next Governmental Affairs Committee to be held January 25, 1994.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn E. Geary-Symons". The signature is written in black ink and extends across the width of the page.

Marilyn E. Geary-Symons
Committee Recorder