

MINUTES OF THE METRO GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 4, 1993

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Mike Gates (Chair), Jim Gardner (Vice Chair), Sandi Hansen, Terry Moore, and Judy Wyers

Committee Members Absent:

Other Councilors Present: Richard Devlin, Susan McLain, Rod Monroe

Chair Gates called the regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Communications from Local Governments

Chair Gates noted this item would be included as the first item for the agenda. He stated no communications were received for this item.

2. Status Report on Apportionment Commission

Casey Short, Council Analyst, reported the Councilors had made all appointments to the commission. He noted there was a potential conflict of interest with one or more appointees.

Chair Gates noted that Mr. Short had distributed a summary of the Committee's February 1, 1993 discussion of its work plan for the first six months of 1993, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

3. Consideration of Resolution No. 93-1742, Confirming Citizen Member Appointees to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)

Don Rocks, Executive Assistant, introduced applicants James Zehren and Arnold Polk, and stated that Sandra Suran was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Gates recommended the Committee delate Ms. Suran's name from the resolution and consider her nomination at a future meeting. Both applicants stated they had never been convicted of a felony.

Mr. Polk responded to questions from the Committee. He explained his understanding of the MPAC as described in the Metro Charter. He noted he would represent the citizens of the region utilizing a broad perspective. He said his past experience in the public sector was on the Curry County Planning Commission. He said with his children grown he had time to commit to the committee. He stated he resided in Tigard and his business was located in Beaverton. He noted he ran for judge during the last election.

Mr. Zehren responded to questions from the Committee. He discussed his understanding of the MPAC function. He spoke to the responsibility of the position to the public. He noted he served on the Regional Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC). In response to a question by Councilor Gardner related to the staffing of the MPAC, Mr. Zehren favored merging RPAC and MPAC, utilizing current Metro staff. He observed the Council was the ultimate decision making body.

Motion: Councilor Gardner moved to recommend full Council adoption of the resolution eliminating Susan Suran from the resolution.

Councilor Hansen expressed a concern that many of the people appointed to committees serve in similar capacities on other Metro committees. She noted many of the applicants were attorneys and/or certified public accountants.

She encouraged Metro to solicit a broader range of applicants in terms of background and interests. Mr. Rocks explained many applications were reviewed. Councilor Hansen requested a list of the applicants reviewed.

Vote: Councilors Gardner, Hansen, Moore and Gates voted aye. Councilor Wyers was absent. The vote was 4/0 and the motion passed.

6. Discussion of Councilor Outreach Program

Judy Shioishi, Council Analyst, distributed and summarized a memorandum dated February 1, 1993, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Chair Gates discussed including a Metro Council newsletter with local jurisdiction's publications to reduce expenses and ensure delivery to residents.

Chair Gates requested staff to distribute the questionnaire and request responses. Councilor Moore suggested utilizing neighborhood associations newsletters.

4. Work Session to Consider Communication on the Forum on Cooperative Urban Service (FOCUS)

Don Carlson, Council Administrator, presented the staff report. He noted the FOCUS group was considering oversight of Charter implementation. He stated the original intent of FOCUS was to provide a place for jurisdictions to discuss cooperative urban services. He said the group was now examining regional services and the Council may want to reconsider their participation.

Chair Gates discussed his understanding of the FOCUS group. He explained that not all jurisdictions were represented on the MPAC. He noted the FOCUS group had other items on their agenda that MPAC might not address.

Councilor Moore questioned what urban services were being addressed. Mr. Carlson said the group was to coordinate and cooperate sharing resources or discussing projects to maximize the delivery of urban services. Councilor Moore noted forums were available for jurisdictions to discuss such issues.

Councilor Hansen referred to the information about the work plan of FOCUS included in the record of this meeting. She said if the plan was no longer valid, no decision should be made until a concrete plan was proposed. She noted the group changed its focus frequently. She expressed reservations about making payment to the group.

Councilor Gardner noted he supported the group during the first year of operation. He said shortly thereafter, the group joined with the Regional Governance Committee (RGC) interests. He noted the steering committees were small and did the substantive work. He stated he had a credibility problem with the consultants hired. He said the firm dealt with the RGC and Metro Charter Committee. He expressed concern about their position on government dues. He felt the role was to act as a "watch dog" for Metro. He did not support Metro participation with FOCUS.

Councilor McLain strongly felt the intention of FOCUS was to do Metro's job. She strongly objected to participating with the group.

Councilor Moore said she was disturbed about the disruption of public process. She supported cooperating with other jurisdictions but did not think FOCUS was the appropriate way to accomplish this participation.

Chair Gates defended the position of the FOCUS group. He noted the documents were in draft form. He said the documents were prepared by McKeever/Morris and were not representative of all members. He reiterated the fact that local governments would be encouraged to provide communications under item one of the agenda.

Mr. Carlson encouraged maintaining dialogue. He said a letter might be sent supporting their original objective.

Councilor McLain noted she agreed with the original objective of the FOCUS group. She said better utilization of current processes would aid in better understanding between jurisdictions.

Councilor Hansen reiterated her opposition to participating with FOCUS. She noted Multnomah County was not participating.

Chair Gates favored inviting FOCUS representatives to discuss the issue further. The consensus of the committee was to send a letter stating the position of the Committee and requesting further discussion with FOCUS representatives.

5. Review of Departmental Five-Year Financial Plans

Jennifer Sims, Director of Finance and Management Information, gave an overview of the five-year financial planning process.

Vickie Rucker, Public Affairs Director, presented the five-year financial plan for the Public Affairs Department. She distributed a summary of staff assignments, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. In response to a question from Councilor Moore, Ms. Rucker explained the function of the speakers bureau.

Dan Cooper, General Counsel, presented the five-year financial plan for the Office of General Counsel. He discussed the difficulty in preparing the plan because of the difficulty in projecting potential liabilities for the agency.

Dick Engstrom, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the five-year financial plan for the Office of Executive Management.

Paula Paris, Personnel Director, presented the five-year financial plan for the Personnel Department. She noted the plan was not necessarily the intent of the Executive Officer.

Merrie Waylett, Senior Management Analyst, presented the five-year financial plan for the Office of Government Relations. She discussed some of the changes that resulted from passage of the Metro Charter. Councilor McLain spoke to improving the relationship between the executive branch and the Council and promoting unity of Metro to the public. Councilor Gardner expressed concern about the annual twenty percent increase in personnel services.

The Council Department five-year financial plan was deferred to a future meeting.

Chair Gates recessed the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Chair Gates reconvened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

7. Work Session to Consider Proposed Councilor Expense Guidelines

Chair Gates deferred discussion of item seven to a future meeting of the committee.

8. Discussion of 1993 State Legislative Issues

Ms. Waylett introduced Burton Weast and Noel Klein, representing Western Advocates.

Mr. Weast reported Councilor Monroe attended Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) Legislative Committee meetings regularly. He explained the new process used to identify bills by Western Advocates. Responding to a question from Mr. Weast, Councilor Monroe stated he favored knowing the position of the SDAO on the bills. Councilor Monroe noted the joint support would be important in passing bills. He said the legislature was composed largely of representatives from rural areas. He stated the SDAO was also composed of rural special districts. Councilor Gardner concurred, adding that Metro might want to avoid identifying itself as a special district. Councilor Moore concurred.

The Committee discussed the process for recommending a Metro position on legislation.

Mr. Weast and Mr. Klein summarized the bills included in the Metro bill list summary dated February 1, 1993. Andy Cotugno, Transportation Director, discussed transportation related bills.

The Committee discussed legislation for monitor, support, oppose, or discontinue monitoring positions. Staff was to prepare a resolution based on the discussions for consideration at the next regular meeting of the committee.

9. Recognition of Guests

Chair Gates recognized Greg Chew, McKeever/Morris, was present at the meeting.

With no further business before the committee, Chair Gates adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee
Committee Recorder