

Council Convention Center Committee Minutes
Monday, April 18, 1988
4:00 p.m.
Metro, Room 330

Attending: Councilors Cooper, Knowles, Hansen, Van Bergen, Waker.
Staff: Neil Saling, Kim Duncan, Neil McFarlane, Ray Phelps
MERC: Commissioner Ben Middleton, Lee Fehrenkamp, Dominic Buffetta

1. Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes, 3/8/88; 3/24/88; 3/25/88 and 4/7/88. Minutes were approved without
2. Agenda Item 2. MERC Budget

Neil Saling was introduced to the Committee as the Project's new manager. He noted the committee's recommendations regarding the G. O. bond interest earnings accruing as an unappropriated balance in the Project's Capital fund. He explained the need for TSCC approval to access an unappropriated balance.

He also explained that the new MERC budget reflected that the ERC General Manager and deputy staff would be employees of MERC. Time spent on city facilities management will be billed back to the City. This arrangement reverses the current practice.

Councilor Van Bergen asked how this staffing arrangement squared with the ultimate goal of regional administration and transfer of properties to MERC. Councilor Knowles answered that it was a positive step down that road. Councilor Cooper clarified that the MERC budget did not anticipate any property transfer this year. Ray Phelps said the budget gives MERC adequate staffing.

Councilor Van Bergen asked for a "white paper" describing the policies that the MERC budget was designed to implement. The budget was too 'naked' without additional substantiation, he stated. Mr. Phelps said that the backup materials would be available for the budget hearing on April 19, 1988.

Councilor Cooper asked that a budget note accompany the committee's report. This note would require MERC to coordinate with Metro for its computer acquisition. Dominic Buffetta said he had initiated discussions with LeRoy Nollette at Metro about such an arrangement. Mr. Nollette will be involved in the computer decisions for MERC.

Commissioner Middleton, chair of MERC's budget committee said that the Commission wanted a comprehensive computer system to be in place before the Center opens. This is consistent with recommendations from Laventhol and Horwath.

Councilor Van Bergen stated that all Agency computer systems should mesh. Councilor Knowles asked that the computer funds be placed in contingency until decisions were ready for Council evaluation.

Councilor Cooper said he had discussed this with Mr. Fehrenkamp and Mr. Buffetta and that many issues remained unresolved at this time.

Councilor Waker said that the computer line item should remain as proposed in the MERC budget. The Committee concurred.

Councilor Knowles asked for a job description for the proposed "Special Projects Coordinator". Mr. Fehrenkamp explained that the Commission might need a staff position to coordinate the consolidation of facilities and other projects. He said he did not have a completed job description for the slot. Consolidation is a bigger issue than we think, he noted. This position was recommended by Metro and first appeared in an earlier Metro draft MERC budget. Councilor Waker said that he was willing to review the job description at a later time.

Councilor Knowles asked if the Executive Officer approved the MERC budget. He asked if she would provide the Committee with a note stating her support for the budget. Mr. Phelps said that such a note would be forthcoming.

Councilor Knowles noted that the MERC budget had been a confusing process to the Council and hoped that the Executive Officer understood the nature of the confusion.

Councilor Knowles moved the adoption of the MERC budget. Councilor Waker seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Councilor Knowles then stated that he would not vote for the CCP budget because he did not understand how the Project would be administered.

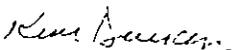
Conversation then moved to concern about MERC appropriately noting its affiliation with the Metropolitan Service District. Councilor Waker stated that a policy about such issues should be developed by the Internal Affairs Committee. Councilor Hansen stated that until the citizens understood all the services that Metro provided, Metro would continue to have difficulties securing long-term funding. Therefore, it is important that all of Metro's services be properly identified.

Councilor Cooper then asked for a motion on the CCP budget. Councilor Knowles repeated his intent to vote against the budget because he did not know enough about it. Councilor Hansen moved the budget recommendation on the CCP budget. The budget passed committee with three ayes and one nay (Knowles).

(NOTE: The Committee had previously taken action to recommend the CCP budget April 12, 1988. This action contained amendments regarding the debt reserve and staffing. The vote of 4/18/88 can be considered a "reconfirmation". KD)

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Submitted by,


Kim Duncan



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Convention Center Committee Report *Meeting Date: April 18, 1988*

To: Mike Ragsdale, Presiding Officer
Metro Council

From: Larry Cooper, Chair
Convention Center Committee

Subject: Recommendations on the MERC Budget FY 88-89
Recommendations on the Convention Center Project Budget
FY 88-89

Executive Officer
Rena Cusma

Metro Council

Mike Ragsdale
Presiding Officer
District 1

Corky Kirkpatrick
Deputy Presiding
Officer
District 4

Richard Waker
District 2

Jim Gardner
District 3

Tom DeJardin
District 5

George Van Bergen
District 6

Sharon Kelley
District 7

Mike Bonner
District 8

Tanya Collier
District 9

Larry Cooper
District 10

David Knowles
District 11

Gary Hansen
District 12

At the Council Convention Center Committee of April 18, 1988, the Committee approved the following two budget recommendations:

1. *The MERC Budget as recommended by the Executive Officer was approved by the Committee unanimously and forwarded the Budget Committee. The Committee chair recommended that a budget note be prepared for the computer acquisition item. The budget note would require MERC consultation with METRO prior to acquisition. METRO wishes all its computer systems to be compatible and therefore achieve a cost savings to the agency.*

2. *The CCP Budget with the Committee's recommendations of April 12, 1988, was reconfirmed by the committee. Councilor Knowles voted no on the reconfirmation stating that he had insufficient information about the project's 88-89 administration as a result of recent changes.*

cc: Rena Cusma Tanya Collier
Dick Engstrom Jennifer Sims
Ray Phelps Marie Nelson