

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

February 11, 1992
Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Tanya Collier
(Vice Chair), Tom DeJardin, and Ruth
McFarland

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner

Other Councilors Present: Roger Buchanan

Chair McLain called the regular meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Consideration of Ordinance No. 92-412A, Amending Metro Code
Chapter 4.01 Metro Washington Park Zoo Regulations

Dan Cooper, Legal Counsel, gave his staff report. He said the proposed amendments that would regulate conduct of visitors at the Zoo. He said the current code regulations applied to both visitors and staff, while the amendment would only apply to visitors. He said the amendment also eliminated an unconstitutional restriction on freedom of speech by outlining a procedure for public forums.

Chair McLain opened the public hearing. No citizens appeared to testify and Chair McLain closed the public hearing.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-412A.

Vote: All those present voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 92-1556, Authorizing a
Planning and Development Effort for Financing Regional
Facilities and Programs

Pam Erickson, Project Manager, presented her staff report. She noted the report of the Public Policy Advisory Committee for Regional Facilities, which projected the need for \$2.2 million in annual operating support for Metro's regional facilities. She said the Arts Plan 2000+ report was issued and identified \$4.6 million annual need for support of arts programs in the region. She concluded there needed to be a marriage between the programs for facilities and for the arts, and that Resolution 92-1556 represented that marriage. She said it was recognized that there can not be facilities without programs and that financing the needs of both ought to be considered together. She said the goal of the task force was to achieve a regional consensus on financing facilities and programs.

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Don Rocks, Executive Assistant, introduced Bill Bulick, Director of the Metropolitan Arts Commission and Ann Mason, Director of Arts Plan 2000+. Mr. Bulick and Ms. Mason gave a presentation on Arts Plan's findings, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. They also gave a slide show presentation. Ms. Mason spoke to the value of public support of the arts and the financial difficulties of many local arts organizations. Mr. Bulick said the arts deserve more support than they were getting, both from the public and private sectors, because of the return they provide to the community. He cited three necessary elements: renewed leadership from the public and private sectors; increased investment from both; and regional cooperation.

Councilor McFarland said the impact of cultural events goes beyond the direct observers and participants. She said it permeated society and can raise people's concerns to a level higher than the basic needs of food and shelter. She said we cannot as a society, afford not to have a healthy arts community. Councilors DeJardin and McLain concurred.

Motion: Councilor DeJardin moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-1556.

Vote: Councilors DeJardin, McLain, Collier and McFarland voted aye. The vote was 4/0 and the motion passed.

3. Status Report on Metro Headquarters Project

Neil Saling, Regional Facilities Director, distributed and summarized a handout on the Metro Headquarters Project, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Councilor McFarland asked who would use the day care facility. Mr. Saling said approximately half would be children of Metro employees. Councilor McFarland said she favored having the day care available to Councilors. Chair McLain said she favored evening hours of operation for staff and Councilors attending evening meetings.

Councilor McFarland asked if alternative energy sources were being identified. Mr. Saling said they were. Councilor McFarland requested this area be identified in updates. She expressed concerns about the architect and the ability to communicate with their representative.

Councilor McLain asked if there were any problems with the parking patrons being displaced. Berit Stevenson, Senior Management Analyst, said Pacific Development Inc., was retained to manage the parking and they were able to relocate those displaced.

4. Discussion of Five Year Financial Plans for the Zoo and Regional Facilities Departments

Sherry Sheng, Zoo Director, said the Zoo's five year financial plan was closely related to the update of the Zoo Master Plan. She said the plans included restructuring the existing exhibits, adding more endangered and local species, and exhibiting animals that are more adaptable to the climate in the region. She said improvements were planned in the area of animal management to give quality care to the animals.

Ms. Sheng said the Zoo plan included three areas of improvement. She said first, the Zoo planned to utilize resources to make the visitor experience more memorable. She said the second focus was to increase and expand enterprise revenues. Finally, she said the plan called for improved internal operations.

Councilor McFarland said the Zoo was moving in a good direction.

Mr. Saling distributed the Regional Facilities Department's five year plan. He said in the interest of time he would allow members to read the document and would answer questions, if any, at a future date.

Casey Short, Council Analyst, noted a copy of a Request for Proposal (RFP) had been distributed, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. He said the item was informational only.

With no further business before the Committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee
Committee Clerk