

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

March 8, 1993

Zoo Meeting Room G

Committee Members Present: Chair Ruth McFarland, Vice Chair
Susan McLain, Jim Gardner, Ed
Washington

Committee Members Excused: Sandi Hansen

Other Councilors Present: Jon Kvistad

Chair McFarland called the special meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

Before the special meeting, a tour of the Zoo was conducted by Dennis Pate, Curator, for Councilors Jon Kvistad and Susan McLain with Council Analyst Casey Short in attendance.

1. Briefing on Zoo Development and Zoo Financial Issues

Sherry Sheng, Zoo Director, gave a briefing on Zoo development and Zoo financial issues.

Ms. Sheng took those present on a tour of the Zoo parking lot to explain the effect of light rail station construction on Zoo operations and present and future Zoo parking capacity. She said the Zoo would eventually lose 22 percent of its parking spaces.

Ms. Sheng described the plan for the new entrance leading into what was formerly the Children's Zoo area and conducted a tour of same.

After reconvening in Meeting Room G, Chair McFarland opened a public hearing.

Scott Forrester, 12505 SW N. Dakota, #310, Tigard, testified on issues related to educational signage, specifically with regard to big game animals native to Oregon. He said statistics on how many animals were legally hunted in Oregon should be added to Zoo signage, specifically with regard to the American Cougar.

Chair McFarland noted Mr. Forrester meant educational signage, especially as it related to native species. Mr. Forrester agreed and said most visitors to the Zoo were not aware of such issues. He said The Oregonian had not printed any articles in the last three years on the hunting of native species in Oregon. Mr. Forrester said he did not oppose hunting per se, but opposed the hunting of animals not used for food. Chair McFarland asked Mr. Forrester to testify when the Regional Facilities Committee held a public hearing on signage. Mr. Forrester said he would, but that he wanted educational signage placed in front of the American Cougar's and American Black Bear's exhibits immediately.

He said the signage in front of the Cougar exhibit said "generally threatened" but noted they were still legally hunted in Oregon. He noted that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife had stated the hunting and population of big cats was difficult to track. He said part of the Zoo's mission was to educate and noted the Birds of Prey exhibit now had a spotted owl. He said he spoke with Ms. Sheng on these issues who referred him to the Metro Council for a response.

Councilor Gardner said statistics on animals killed should be provided in conjunction with the number of the animals that were known to be extant. Mr. Forrester agreed.

Chair McFarland said she would respond to Mr. Forrester in a timely manner and thanked him for his testimony.

Ms. Sheng concluded her briefing on Zoo development and financial issues and distributed a summary sheet of budget requests for FY 1993-94 based on the Zoo's 25-Year Plan.

The Committee and Ms. Sheng discussed the Zoo's budget as proposed for FY 1993-94. Councilor McLain asked why the marketing budget had not been increased because of the Zoo's plans for new exhibits. Ms. Sheng said staff marketed the Zoo regardless of whether exhibits were new or old.

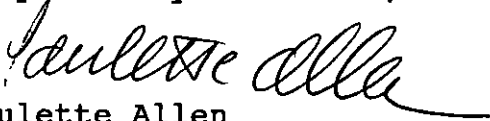
Councilor Kvistad asked if an RFP would be issued for design services for the Oregon Exhibit. Ms. Sheng said an RFP would be issued and the Zoo Capital Fund would be used. Mr. Short explained \$1 million was proposed to be transferred from the Operating to the Capital Fund and asked for clarification on the relationship between that transfer and the proposed \$1.5 million for Oregon Exhibit Design Services.

Councilor Gardner asked if staff would still transfer \$1 million from the Operating Fund to the Capital Fund if the new entrance was not built. Ms. Sheng said she would still propose the transfer because the Zoo needed to enhance/build exhibits to attract visitors and keep their interest which in turn generated income. She said previously there had not been as much need to transfer funds from Operating Surplus into Capital because capital projects had had their own funding sources. She said major projects were now subsiding, but said there was still a need for renewal to attract customers and noted also that projects now being done were smaller in scope. She believed the transfer would be money well-spent. Chair McFarland said the condition of the old Children's Zoo was an example of what could happen without capital investment.

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All business having been attended to, Chair McFarland adjourned the special meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paulette Allen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paulette Allen
Clerk of the Council