

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

Regular Meeting
April 11, 1991

Committee members present: David Knowles (Chair), Jim Gardner (Vice Chair), Roger Buchanan, and Ruth McFarland

Committee members absent: Larry Bauer

Chair Knowles called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

1. Consideration of Draft Recommendations on the Zoo Budget to be Forwarded to the Budget Committee

Kay Rich, Assistant Zoo Director, completed the review of the zoo budget, showing charts that documented revenue and unappropriated balance projections through FY 95-96. The projections were arrived at using a set of four assumptions regarding Zoo admission fee increases. The assumptions were as follows: 1) A \$1.00 increase July 1991 with a \$.50 increase January 1992 and an incremental \$.50 increase in January of each of the following four fiscal years. 2) A \$.50 increase July 1991 with a \$.50 increase January 1992 and an incremental \$.50 increase in January of each of the following four fiscal years. 3) A \$1.00 increase January 1992 and an incremental \$.50 increase in January of each of the following four fiscal years. 4) A \$.50 increase January 1992 and an incremental \$.50 increase in January of each of the following four fiscal years. In each instance, attendance was projected to fall with rising admission fees. Depending upon the assumption used, the unappropriated balance could be a negative balance by FY 95-96. Councilors agreed it was important to note the budget process only pertained to FY 91-92, and that binding decisions regarding future years would not be made.

Chair Knowles addressed a memorandum containing draft recommendations from the Committee to the Budget Committee pertaining to the Zoo. A copy of this memorandum is included as part of the record.

Included in the recommendations was Chair Knowles' recommendation to buy down insurance costs, and that the Zoo be held harmless for any costs above those they would have been required to pay under the current insurance program. The Committee recommended FTEs be kept at current levels in FY 91-92. The Committee agreed there should be a five year financial plan. The Committee recommended the excise tax be included in the admission price; the fee increase should take place January 1992. Every effort should be made to hold increase below \$1, however, if staffing levels remain the same, and if the Budget Committee does not recommend the insurance buy down; and if the Budget Committee and

Council do not find it appropriate to make other cuts, the increase should be \$1.00. Chair Knowles will draft words to reflect the concerns regarding increases in zoo admissions.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to forward to the Budget Committee the recommendations contained in the draft memorandum, which are included as part of the record, as amended by discussion of the Committee.

Vote: Councilors Knowles, Buchanan, Gardner, and McFarland voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration of Draft Recommendations on the MERC Budget to be Forwarded to the Budget Committee

Chair Knowles reported the future of MERC operations depended upon finding a regional funding source for these facilities. A memorandum outlining the MERC budget issues was discussed and is included as part of the record.

Regarding the environmental impairment insurance, Lee Fehrenkamp, MERC General Manager, indicated Convention Center management was no longer considering installation of an on-site underground storage tank, and further, was considering removal of the underground storage tank at the Coliseum in order to avoid the \$50,000 insurance cost for such tanks. If this occurred, MERC would not contribute to the environmental impairment reserve program. Jennifer Sims, Director of Finance and Management Information, indicated the liability fund total would probably need to be reduced.

Councilors agreed MERC should be held harmless for any insurance costs exceeding those they would have paid under the current program. Councilor Gardner stated the recommendations should be confined to the upcoming fiscal year, thus rendering moot the second recommendation on page three of the memorandum. Councilor Gardner felt FTE increases at spectator facilities should be eliminated, however, it was probable that in the start-up phase of the Convention Center, not all staffing needs had yet been identified at that facility. It was decided to recommend the Budget Committee look carefully at the issue of FTE staffing, with the idea of keeping increases to a minimum.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to forward to the Budget Committee the recommendations contained in the draft memorandum, which are included as part of the record, as amended by discussion of the Committee.

Vote: Councilors Knowles, Buchanan, Gardner, and McFarland voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of Draft Recommendations on the Regional Facilities Department Budget to be Forwarded to the Budget Committee

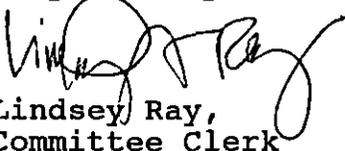
Chair Knowles discussed the draft memorandum outlining recommendations to the Budget Committee. A copy of the memorandum is included as part of the record.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to forward to the Budget Committee the recommendations contained in the draft memorandum, which are included as part of the record.

Vote: Councilors Knowles, Buchanan, Gardner, and McFarland voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsey Ray,
Committee Clerk

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