

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

Regular Meeting  
June 11, 1991

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

Chair Knowles called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Committee Review of Contracts List for FY 1991-92

Council Analyst Casey Short reviewed his memo of June 4, outlining proposed A and B designations for Regional Facilities and Zoo contracts for FY 1991-92. A copy of this memo and the list of contracts are included with the agenda, and are part of the record. Mr. Short reviewed with the committee the difference between Type A and Type B contracts, and explained how he reached his recommendations regarding specific contract designations.

Councilor Gardner asked Mr. Short to verify that the contract for design and production of the Zoo directional sign system was actually in its second phase as indicated by the contract title. If not, Councilor Gardner stated he would object to its proposed Type B designation. Mr. Short indicated he would look into the matter.

Councilor Bauer stated he felt the committee's recommendation on this matter should come in the form of a motion, in light of the dollar amount involved. The committee concurred.

Motion: Councilor Bauer moved to recommend Council adoption of the A and B contract designation recommendations as set forth in the exhibit.

Vote: Councilors Knowles, Gardner, Bauer, and McFarland voted aye. Councilor Buchanan was absent. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 91-1449, Authorizing the Execution of a Multi-Year Contract with Tri-Met for the Transfer of \$2,000,000 to Provide a Portion of the Local Match to Federal Funds for Financing the Westside Light Rail Project

Metro Transportation Director Andy Cotugno reported on Resolution No. 91-1449, which would authorize a \$2,000,000 transfer to Tri-Met to match federal funds for the Westside Light Rail Project. This contribution would be in recognition of the benefit derived by Metro by the siting of light rail stop at the Zoo/OMSI/World Forestry Center area. The method proposed for raising the

\$2,000,000 is to charge for parking at that area. Copies of the Resolution, staff report, exhibits, and City of Portland proposed resolution that were reviewed by Mr. Cotugno are included as part of the record.

Councilor McFarland asked if staff had developed an alternative plan, should the parking fee proposal fail. Mr. Cotugno responded other options included authorizing Metro funding sources such as the General Fund or the Zoo Fund. He pointed out the parking fee option would ensure the burden of raising the matching funds would fall proportionately upon users of the Zoo, OMSI, and the Western Forestry Center. Unlike Metro, the other two facilities are not required contractually to contribute to the fund. Without the parking fee, there is no guarantee these institutions would agree to contribute.

Councilor McFarland expressed concern that an added parking fee would price the Zoo out of the market for many lower income families. Mr. Cotugno pointed out a fee would not need to be charged at all times. Council could decide to allow certain free parking periods such as "Free Tuesdays," weekdays, or other non-peak hours.

Councilor Bauer asked about the current status of the \$2,000,000. Mr. Cotugno responded that the revenue would be produced by parking receipts. He further stated the contract calls for Metro to establish a cash flow and payment schedule to Tri-Met. He suggested requesting Tri-Met to increase bus service to the Zoo prior to light-rail going on line. Councilor Knowles concurred and indicated he would be putting forth an amendment to that effect. The amendment would be in conceptual form; he requested Mr. Cotugno and Mr. Short to confer and develop acceptable language.

Councilor Gardner suggested a parking charge not be instigated until light rail was up and running. He said in the interim, a loan could be made from the Solid Waste Fund at favorable rates to Metro. Councilor Knowles indicated he was uncomfortable borrowing money, once again, from the Solid Waste fund. He indicated it was not fiscally sound to consistently turn to this fund for money. Councilor Bauer agreed with Councilor Knowles. Councilor Knowles asked Mr. Cotugno if alternative cash flow sources had been sought or identified. Mr. Cotugno indicated government bond interest rates would be competitive with rates Metro could provide. Councilor Gardner pointed out Council has always been willing in the past to explore borrowing from the Solid Waste Fund when it would benefit Metro; he further stated it should therefore be appropriate to consider this fund as a

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source of money when it would benefit the public. Councilor Knowles asked Mr. Cotugno to look into the matter.

Councilor Knowles opened a public hearing to allow members of the public to address this issue. Mr. Cotugno reported he had received a call from a citizen in opposition to the parking charge. He asked that this call be noted in the record. No testimony was forthcoming, and the public hearing was closed.


Mr. Short indicated he had received many calls of complaint regarding the possibility of charging for parking the Zoo.

Motion: Councilor Bauer moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 91-1449 as amended by Councilor Knowles.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsey Ray,  
Committee Clerk

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