

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

September 24, 1991
Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Jim Gardner (Vice Chair), Larry Bauer, Roger Buchanan

Committee Members Absent: David Knowles (Chair), Ruth McFarland

Vice Chair Gardner called the regular meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Consideration of Ordinance No. 91-424, Approving the Revision of Metro Code Section 4.01.060 Revising Admission Fees at the Metro Washington Park Zoo

Kay Rich, Assistant Director, presented the staff report. He said the Zoo is proposing a \$.50 increase in admission fees. He said this is \$.50 less than the recommended increase proposed in the budget process. He said this is less due to a larger fund balance than projected, due to prudent spending by zoo staff.

Mr. Rich said other financing options are being considered to account for the difference. He said zoo concerts are now included in regular admission and new off season events are being planned.

Councilor Buchanan said the Zoo is one of the few ways Metro can provide cultural enhancement to the community. He was concerned that by increasing admission rates, a valuable family entertainment option would be discouraged. He said he was particularly concerned because the admission rates were just raised in February of 1991 and that would mean an increase in adult admissions from \$3.50 to \$5.00 in just one year. Mr. Rich added that Measure 5 will have an effect on Zoo revenues. He also said last year was the first year of the excise tax, which transferred \$385,000 from the Zoo to the General Fund; Metro is moving to self-insurance, which is expensive; and support service costs are increasing. The Zoo projects increasing staff by only 4.2 FTE through 1995-96.

Mr. Rich said the Zoo is concerned about the increase affecting attendance too. He said even with the increase, the Zoo is still competitive with other Zoo admissions in the Northwest and other forms of entertainment. He said surveys of Zoo visitors indicate people are impressed with the Zoo and feel they get their money's worth.

Councilor Bauer asked if considering operating projections was it probable to hold the adult admission at \$5.00 for some time. Mr. Rich said admission would remain stable for the next fiscal year, but without new exhibits, Zoo attendance would likely decrease, requiring another fee increase later. Councilor Bauer said he shared Councilor Buchanan's concerns. Councilor Bauer felt the

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increase might eliminate a source of entertainment for families of moderate or low income.

Councilor Buchanan advised the Committee he would be voting nay to allow discussion to occur at full Council.

Mr. Short said he would still like to hear from Sherry Sheng, Zoo Director, about the master plan. Mr. Rich said the master plan was still being developed and he would allow Ms. Sheng to comment.

Motion: Councilor Bauer moved to recommend Council adopt Ordinance No. 91-424.

Vice Chair Gardner opened the public hearing. No citizens appeared to testify. Vice Chair Gardner closed the public hearing.

Vice Chair Gardner spoke to his concerns about raising the admission. He said he feared the prices were in danger of reaching a threshold. He said families of limited incomes might be priced out of affording the admission. He said the issue was more than a price issue because of the cultural and educational value of the zoo. He said some of the other sources of entertainment could not compare to the Zoo. He encouraged the Zoo to examine factors other than the bottom line. He did commend the Zoo staff for only recommending a \$.50 increase, instead of the full \$1.00 increase discussed in the budget process.

Vote: Councilors Bauer and Gardner voted aye. Councilor Buchanan voted nay. The vote was 2/1 and the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Resolution No. 91-1504, Authorizing Exemption to the Requirement of Competitive Bidding Pursuant to Metro Code 2.04.041(c) and Approving a Sole Source Contractor Pursuant to Metro Code 2.04.060

Jim Moeller, Project Coordinator, presented the staff report. He said Portland General Electric (PGE) has a program to examine the energy use at the Zoo and make recommendations for conservation and potential cost savings. He said PGE would hire and pay for an outside engineering firm to survey energy use and report ways to reduce consumption. He said the Zoo would only be obligated to make changes in areas that would result in a three (3) year pay back with a maximum of \$84,000 in improvements. He said because PGE is a legal monopoly and the only supplier of electricity in that area, an exemption of the requirement of competitive bidding was justified.

Motion: Councilor Bauer moved to recommend Council Adopt Resolution No. 91-1504.

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

3. Review of MERC Resolution Nos. 140, 144-148

Ron Kawamoto, MERC Commissioner, presented summaries of MERC Resolution Nos. 140, 144-148.

Relating to Resolution No. 147, Vice Chair Gardner said he did not agree with public entities paying for staff membership in professional clubs. He said it would be an inappropriate use of public funds. Commissioner Kawamoto said the Commission would take Vice Chair Gardner's comments into consideration and would monitor the activity. Commissioner Kawamoto said the Commission would consider changing policy in the future if they found they could no longer justify it.

Relating to Resolution No. 140, Commissioner Kawamoto noted the Shakespeare Administrators were requesting that a list of ticket purchasers be provided for future solicitation. He said the ticket vendors did not have the capacity at this time to respond to the request. He said options for providing the information were still being investigated.

Commissioner Kawamoto said the Commission was interested in presenting the resolutions instead of staff. Councilor Gardner agreed to the suggestion noting it would improve relations between Commissioners and Councilors.

4. Consideration of Resolution No. 91-1494B, Authorizing the Execution of a Sale Agreement for the Acquisition of the Sears Facility

Vice Chair Gardner advised the Committee that pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(e) the Committee would hold an executive session to discuss matters related to real estate acquisition.

Unscheduled agenda item:

The Committee went into executive session at 4:45 p.m. Staff present: Mr. Short; Dan Cooper, Legal Counsel; Don Rocks, Executive Assistant; Berit Stevenson, Senior Management Analyst; Sandy Stallcup, Assistant Management Analyst; and Mr. Rich. The Committee reconvened at 4:55.

Vice Chair Gardner stated the Committee would not be taking action on Resolution No. 91-1494B.

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5. Consideration of Resolution No. 91-1507, Exempting the Headquarters RFQ/RFP Process from Competitive Bidding Process Pursuant to Metro Code 2.04.041

Vice Chair Gardner deferred this item to a future meeting.

6. Consideration of Resolution No. 91-1505B, Authorizing the Issuance of Metro Headquarters Project Design/Build RFP

Vice Chair Gardner deferred this item to a future meeting.

Vice Chair Gardner adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Susan Lee
Committee Clerk