

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

March 31, 1993

Metro Center
Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Ruth McFarland (Chair), Susan McLain
(Vice Chair), Sandi Hansen, Ed
Washington

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner

Other Councilors Present: Mike Gates, Judy Wyers

Chair McFarland called the special meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

1. Discussion of 1993-94 Budget Issues
▶ Regional Facilities Department

Neil Saling, Regional Facilities Director, distributed and discussed a handout entitled Budget Presentation for Fiscal Year 1993-94, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. He addressed policy issues for the Regional Facilities Department, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Related to the End of the Oregon Trail Project, Councilor McLain noted David Knowles, Chair of the End of the Oregon Trail Foundation Board, advised her that no construction would occur on the project for at least one year. Chair McFarland expressed concern about continuing to budget participation when the Foundation had not supported of Metro's participation.

Casey Short, Council Analyst, noted the Convention Center Capital Fund was experiencing inter-fund transfers for projects. He said transferring the management of the funds to MERC might reduce such transfers. Chair McFarland asked if the balance might be transferred to the debt service account to reduce the bonds. Mr. Short noted the issue was examined in the past and it was determined that it would not result in a significant reduction of tax liability for the voters. He noted the Oregon Convention Center Master Plan was first discussed during this budget process.

Don Carlson, Council Administrator, noted Mr. Saling's summary of policy issues clearly identified the substantive issues. He said he raised the question of the department at the request of individual Councilors. Councilor Hansen asked if a performance audit might be conducted on the department. Mr. Carlson said it could be identified for an audit next year.

Mr. Saling discussed the Convention Center Capital Fund transfers. He noted a portion of the transfer was to examine a parking facility. He discussed the results of the study.

► Metro Washington Park Zoo

Sherry Sheng, Metro Washington Park Zoo, discussed the budget preparations as they related to the Council directive of being fiscally self-sufficient. She summarized the financial history of the Zoo over the past five years.

Councilor Hansen asked what marketing opportunities were available in the light rail tunnel. Ms. Sheng noted the one percent for arts program would allow for marketing opportunities.

Mr. Short discussed his concerns as included in the material included in the agenda, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. Chair McFarland asked if the million dollar transfer would be reduced if a private fund was identified. Ms. Sheng explained that alternatives were examined. She said the best alternative was the one presented in the budget. Related to the Oregon Exhibit designs, she stated the designs would help in the solicitation of donations.

Councilor Hansen noted two meters should be installed for water to reduce rates on water not returned to the sewer system.

Chair McFarland commented favorably on the management of the Zoo by both Ms. Sheng and Kay Rich, Assistant Director.

► Metro E-R Commission

Jeff Blosser, MERC Acting General Manager, distributed and summarized a memorandum dated March 30, 1993, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. The memorandum discussed the major policy issues and changes proposed in the MERC budget.

Mr. Short asked Mr. Blosser if MERC had staff capable of managing the Oregon Convention Center Capital Fund if it were transferred to MERC. Mr. Blosser said current staff members would be capable of managing that fund. He said if the Expo transfer was approved additional staff would be necessary.

2. Discussion of Consolidation Agreement Issues

Mr. Short referred to information included in the agenda in his discussion of the Consolidation Agreement issues. He summarized the information in the packet, copies of which are included in the record of this meeting. He noted the revised agreement called for a March deadline for amendments to the budget process and a June deadline for an amendment to address further consolidation.

Mr. Short noted additional issues needed further examination. He said those issues might make the other considerations moot. The

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consensus of the Committee was to monitor the progress of the other issues to determine if they result in additional changes being unnecessary.

Don Rocks, Executive Assistant, said the Executive Management concurred with the Committee. He noted the position of Metro should be clearly stated and forwarded to the City of Portland. He said if Metro were to demonstrate ability to reduce reserve reliance, the City of Portland might not be as concerned with the operation of the facility.

With no further business before the Committee, Chair McFarland adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee
Committee Recorder

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