

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Council Chamber  
January 20, 1993

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

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner

Other Councilors Present: Mike Gates, Jon Kvistad, Judy Wyers

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

Don Rocks, Executive Assistant, and Janice Larson, Public Affairs Supervisor, presented the new Metro logo and facilities stationery supplies.

1. Review of MERC Resolutions

Jeff Blosser, Acting General Manager, presented a summary of MERC Resolutions 211 and 212, copies of which are included in the record of this meeting.

Chair McFarland noted the budget associated with Resolution 212 had not been presented.

Councilor Hansen asked about dissenting votes. Mr. Blosser said he would provide the commissioner's comments related to the vote to Councilor Hansen.

Councilor McLain asked if the PCPA Advisory Committee accepted the Wolf report. Mr. Blosser said the report was accepted, but not endorsed. He said the PCPA would become a facility available for lease rather than including programs proposed by Arts Plan 2000+.

Councilor Gates asked if closed seats at Civic Stadium would be reopened. Mr. Blosser said there are structural problems and the seats were removed. He said there was no great demand for those seats at this time. He said they would be considered if demand required it.

Councilor McLain asked about the smoking policy at Memorial Coliseum. Mr. Blosser noted there was a move to eliminate smoking in the facility. He said this created a problem with people exiting and returning to the facility. He said the building reduced smoking areas and the ventilation system was inadequate to deal with smoke. He said some complaints were received about smoke being blown back into the arena area.

2. Work Session to Discuss Potential Amendments to MERC Consolidation Agreement

Mr. Rocks reported the negotiations returning the Coliseum to the City of Portland for operation by the Oregon Arena Corporation were being considered. He said considerations to the relationship with Portland and Metro were being discussed. He said Portland had an interest in being included in the budget process as long as they owned the facilities and might get those facilities back. He said the process should not be intrusive or deliver two types of messages to MERC staff (one from Metro and one from Portland). He said the time for Portland input to the budget was after proposal, but prior to adoption. He said formal approval should not be necessary. He noted line item budget notes might clarify budget concerns.

Chair McFarland asked if budget discussions might occur during development of the budget. Mr. Rocks noted the MERC Commissioners did not feel included in the process either.

Councilor McLain discussed the approach of the budget process. She favored improving the process. Mr. Rocks noted the new process should be developed by the elected officials. He said the reserve fund for Spectator Facilities Fund was to be conserved until stable funding was identified.

Councilor Hansen noted the Budget Committee felt too much emphasis was placed on the reserve fund. She said additional plans to find funds after the reserve fund was used were requested to be presented to the Budget Committee. She favored a plan to guarantee Metro ownership of the facilities if funding was established. Mr. Rocks said the transfer of ownership was phase two of the negotiations. He said the terms and conditions of the facilities transfers would be discussed with Portland. He said the issue of existing facility debt had not been resolved.

Chair McFarland asked about the participants of the negotiation team. Mr. Rocks outlined the representatives on the team. Mr. Short noted he would attend on behalf of the Council. He said he would report back to the Council. He said the role of the Council would need to be identified. Chair McFarland favored frequent updates to the Regional Facilities Committee. She requested an appointee of the Council attend the meetings also. Mr. Short noted Councilor Gardner expressed an interest in participating.

Councilor Washington expressed concerns about MERC attempting to serve both Metro and the City of Portland. He favored a member of the Committee attending the negotiation meetings. Chair McFarland concurred with Councilor Washington.

3. Status Report on Facilities Funding Task Force

Pam Erickson, Project Manager, distributed and summarized a draft report of the revenue strategy subcommittee, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. She discussed the history of the Facilities Funding Task Force. She said three funding proposals were included in the report.

Councilor McLain requested further information and discussion about the various proposed options. She noted several proposed fund recipients had not agreed to be included in the plan. Chair McFarland noted the term "recommendations" should be replaced with "possibilities".

Ms. Erickson clarified for Councilor Hansen the plan would be presented to the full Council in March. Councilor Hansen noted the admission tax and hotel/motel tax should be balanced. She noted the ski resorts in Clackamas County might support more than 11%. She discussed the concern about the facilities located in the metropolitan area (downtown) not being supported by sub-urban communities. Ms. Erickson noted the funding needs sought would help fulfill the suburban needs. Councilor Hansen expressed concerns about the arts programs being available.

Councilor Wyers expressed an interest in public hearings to discuss the issue further.

Councilor McLain noted the Committee did not want to indicate there was a lack of arts programs in suburban areas.

Councilor Kvistad questioned the term, "cultural diversity." Ms. Erickson said participation by ethnic groups in arts programs was considerably low. She said the term had not been defined. Councilor Kvistad expressed an interest in defining the term. He noted the use of the term, "wealthy" was not appropriately defined in the report. He noted grants and endowment funding should be considered in the plan.

Councilor Wyers queried why video rentals were removed. Ms. Erickson said the administration of video rental tax would be high.

Councilor McLain stated a title for the program needed to be chosen.

Councilor Washington noted the constant changing throughout the process. Councilor Gates noted establishing one source for donations to all arts programs would be beneficial.

4. Status Report on Metro Regional Center Project  
- Regular Semi-Monthly Progress Report

Berit Stevenson, Project Manager, distributed and summarized progress report number twenty-two, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Councilor Hansen reported the Childcare Committee would provide oversight with monthly reports to the Committee and quarterly reports after the first year. She said the composition of the Committee would be a Councilor, Metro staff, and a parent. She also noted Ms. Stevenson would provide staff time for oversight of the daycare facility.

- Budget Report

Neil Saling, Regional Facilities Director, presented the budget report. He noted a copy of his report was included in the agenda packet.

- Resourceful Renovation

Pat Merkle, EPA grant employee, presented the resourceful renovation report. She distributed a summary of the recycled products at the building, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting. She summarized the solid waste tonnage at the site, a copy of which is included in the record of this meeting.

Jim Goddard, Senior Solid Waste Planner, emphasized the cooperation at the site.

- Drip Irrigation

Ms. Stevenson said a new type of drip irrigation was available. She said drip irrigation was being considered for the south plaza area. She noted the architectural contractor and the landscape architect initially did not favor the proposal. She said they are now willing to consider installation of the system.

Mr. Saling noted the proposal was initially rejected. He said the cost increase was minimal. He said the Solid Waste fund will absorb the installation cost. He noted the maintenance costs still existed. He said the landscaper agreed to warrant the plants for one year. He favored proceeding with the project as a demonstration project.

Chair McFarland opened the public hearing.

Eric Anderson, 2727 NE 11th, Portland, OR, appeared to testify in support of the drip irrigation project. He complimented Metro on

taking the risk. He encouraged Metro to continue examining ways to conserve resources.

Steve Apotheker, 1905 NE Going, Portland, OR, appeared to testify in support of the drip irrigation project. He concurred with Mr. Anderson. He supported recycling efforts. He noted the difficulty in identifying organizations concerned with water conservation.

Diane Meisenhelter, 4626 NE 19th, Portland, OR, appeared to testify in support of drip irrigation. She represented herself as a citizen activist. She complimented Metro's projects. She supported long-term vision efforts. She supported water conservation efforts.

- Day Care

Ms. Stevenson summarized day care during the general report.

Councilor Hansen asked Pat Merkle for a list of the providers of the recycled materials. She encouraged forwarding the list for the juvenile facility construction project being considered by Multnomah County. She asked Mr. Saling to consider a method for recycling rainwater off the roof.

Councilor Gates asked about the authorization of funds through change orders utilizing the savings on the project. Mr. Saling noted no vote of the Council occurred, but regular updates were made to the Committee.

Councilor McLain clarified the process was approved by Council vote early in the project development. She noted Councilors needed to understand the process for future discussion with the public. She asked for an update on the plaza changes. Ms. Stevenson said changes were made that would result in savings. Mr. Saling noted responsibility of the plaza retail costs had not been assigned.

Councilor Kvistad supported the drip irrigation project. He stated he did not support the entire project. He discussed the cost per square foot of the project. He questioned if a project audit procedure was established. Mr. Saling said there was not an audit procedure. Mr. Saling said the Finance and Management Information Department might audit the expenditures in the course of their normal routine. Mr. Saling noted the projected savings over the life of the bond would be approximately nine million dollars.

Councilor Hansen noted the procedure for change orders needed to be examined. She said project audits might be accomplished through Council legislation. She noted the decision to purchase the building was a long-term process. She pointed out the building and

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decisions made in the past are part of the Councilors' responsibility.

Councilor Hansen asked about opening events at the building. She favored the first opening be dedicated to the construction workers.

Councilor McLain noted the square foot figure could be examined a number of ways. She said the figure should be fair, clear and useable. She noted she did not support the project early in discussions. She said the project was a good decision, but perhaps not the best priority for the agency. She emphasized the need to use one figure.

Chair McFarland noted she would like some questions answered in writing. She requested information on the use of recycled paint; the renovation budget; carpet specifications related to recycled materials; and cost and supplier of furnishings in the entryway.

With no further business before the Committee, Chair McFarland adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Lee  
Committee Recorder