

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

April 19, 1988

Committee Members Present: Councilors David Knowles (Chair), Tanya Collier (V. Chair), Mike Bonner and Richard Waker

Committee Members Absent: Councilor Mike Ragsdale

Chair Knowles called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

1. Consideration of Minutes

Motion: Councilor Waker moved approval of the minutes of February 16 and March 29, 1988.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in Councilors Knowles, Collier and Waker voting aye. Councilor Ragsdale was absent, and Councilor Bonner was not present for the vote.

The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

2. Discussion Concerning the Results of the Council Survey on Governmental Structure, Ballot Measure Explanatory Statement in Voters' Pamphlet and Reapportionment of Council Districts by the Council

Chair Knowles referred the Committee members to a memo dated April 19, 1988 from Council Administrator Don Carlson reporting the results of the Council Questionnaire on Governance Structure, Council Size and Composition, Reapportionment and Voters' Pamphlet Statements. Included as exhibits to the memo were five draft resolutions responding to the results of the survey. The Committee then discussed the resolutions.

Resolution No. 88-916 (Exhibit F), For the Purpose of Supporting Amendments to State Statutes to Allow the Metropolitan Service District Council to Reapportion Itself and Allow Full Use of the Voters' Pamphlet for District Measures

Survey results showed eight Councilors in favor of and four councilors opposed to allowing the Metro Council to reapportion itself.

Motion: Councilor Waker moved to recommend to the full Council adoption of Resolution No. 88-916.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in Councilors Collier, Waker and Knowles voting aye. Councilor Bonner was not present for the vote, and Councilor Ragsdale was absent.

The motion carried.

Resolution No. 88-915 (Exhibit B), For the Purpose of Supporting an Amendment to the Metropolitan Service District Statute to Provide for an Elected Council and an Appointed Executive

Councilor Waker said that he felt the title of the resolution reflected a clear majority of the councilors' responses to the questionnaire, but the content of the resolution did not. Specifically, he cited there were eight respondents who were not in favor of the present governance system (an elected council and an at-large elected executive). Of those eight councilors, he stated, six councilors felt there should be an appointed manager of the District, and two favored the concept of a District-wide elected presiding officer being the District manager.

Council Administrator Don Carlson stated that from the survey, he interpreted the primary issue of the governance model to be the question of where executive authority should reside. He felt that councilors who favored the present governance structure (four) and councilors who favored an elected council and presiding officer elected at-large (two) favored executive authority residing with an elected official.

Councilor Collier stated that she was in favor of a governance model similar to Multnomah County, where the Chair served as a commissioner. She stated she felt it worked better in terms of delivery of services.

Councilor Waker said, as he interpreted the survey results, there was a clear majority to eliminate a separate, non-voting, executive officer and a split vote on whether the presiding officer would serve in a policy role or a dual policy/administrator role. He further stated that he supported the presiding officer being a full-time position with responsibilities to represent Metro on policy issues. In order to do that, a manager would be hired to supervise the administrative operations.

Chair Knowles proposed amending the resolution to provide for an elected council, at-large elected presiding officer and council-appointed executive officer who would serve as administrative head of the agency. Councilors Collier and Waker said they would be in favor of the amendment.

Motion: Councilor Waker moved that Resolution No. 88-915 as amended by the Chair be recommended to the Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors Collier, Waker and Bonner voted aye. Councilor Knowles voted nay. Councilor Ragsdale was absent.

The motion carried.

Councilor Bonner stated that he disagreed with parts of Resolution No. 88-915, specifically, the appointed elected officer and intended to argue that point in front of full Council. Councilor Knowles said he probably would offer an amendment or substitute -- Exhibit C (Resolution 88-915A) -- supporting retention of the current Metro governance system.

Resolution No. 88-917 (Exhibit E), For the Purpose of Supporting an Amendment to the State Statute to Increase the Size of the Council to 13 Members

Councilor Waker said that he and Councilor Kirkpatrick supported increasing the Council size, but their suggested method to achieve it differed from that proposed by the other five Councilors in favor of increasing the Council size. Therefore, there were, in fact, seven councilors in favor of increasing the Council size to thirteen.

Motion: Councilor Collier moved to recommend to the full Council adoption of Resolution No. 88-917.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in Councilors Collier, Knowles, Waker and Bonner voting aye. Councilor Ragsdale was absent.

The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Bonner stated that he wanted to go on record opposed to the Council reapportioning itself. He stated that he felt self-reapportionment worked for the State and Congress but would not work for the Council.

3. Status Report on Interim Task Force on Metropolitan Regional Government and Subcommittees

Greg McMurdo, Government Relations Manager, reported that during the previous week he attended a meeting of the Task Force on Government Operations. This task force, he explained, was separate and apart from the Task Force on Metropolitan Regional Government which Senator Otto also chairs. He further stated the Task Force on Government Operations was examining several issues, one of which was reapportionment. Information compiled by the federal Census Bureau at the block and precinct level is scheduled to be released to the states April 1, 1991. Therefore, reapportionment for Metro and the State could not occur until after April 1, 1991.

Councilor Bonner asked if the District would have a reasonable idea of where the population shifts had occurred prior to the April 1 release.

Mr. McMurdo replied that the calculation process was complex, and the deviation could be great. Therefore, he felt it would be unproductive to use such estimates as a base. Councilor Knowles asked if Metro would be faced with a reapportionment deadline coinciding with the end of the legislative session. Mr. McMurdo replied he had drafted legislation setting a deadline for reapportionment at 250 days before the date of the primary election.

Other issues being considered by the Task Force on Government Operations are the State Voters' Pamphlet--primarily dealing with accuracy of content--and the allocation of election cost. Mr. McMurdo also stated that the Secretary of State has introduced a bill to require cities to pay the cost of their elections (Presently cities are exempt from paying their election costs if they occur at a primary or general election). Mr. McMurdo said he asked Secretary of State Roberts, and she agreed, to include in her bill a provision for the State to pay for election costs for its State candidates and measures.

Mr. McMurdo also reported that the Subcommittee on Potential Functions for Metro had developed a proposal for Metro to absorb the Boundary Commission. The proposal would continue the appointed commission system, but the Boundary Commission staff would become Metro staff. Mr. McMurdo also said that during a meeting he participated in with Senator Otto and Legislative Counsel, Senator Otto indicated that he wanted the Metro Council to be able to delegate its Urban Growth Boundary responsibilities to the Boundary Commission if it so chose. The Task Force is also considering regional libraries, Mr. McMurdo stated, and he felt that they would probably create a Metro-based group to study options.

Councilor Collier asked if the Committee was prepared to make motions on issues the Task Force and its subcommittees were evaluating. Councilor Knowles said his concern was that there be opportunity for public testimony before the Council took a position. Councilors Waker and Collier supported that aim. Councilor Knowles directed staff to draft a resolution for the purpose of Metro absorbing the Boundary Commission responsibilities, notify constituent governments and invite public testimony. Councilor Collier stressed the immediacy of completing the second part of the Councilor Survey addressing, but not limiting itself to, issues such as regional parks, libraries, Boundary Commission, transportation/Tri-Met and funding. Councilor Collier stated her preference was to set a single public hearing date for testimony on all the issues, rather than a separate hearing for each issue.

Councilor Bonner requested that the next committee agenda include discussion on initiative, referendum and recall. Mr. McMurdo will

Planning & Development Committee
April 19, 1988
Page 5

provide information at the next Committee meeting on what the existing law is and options available to Metro.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Ware-Barrett

Gwen Ware-Barrett
Council Committee Clerk
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gpwb