

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

May 17, 1988

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

Committee Members Absent: Councillor Mike Bonner

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairman David Knowles.

2. Discussion of the Results of the Questionnaire on Potential New Functions for Metro: Metro's Role in Regional Parks, Library or Corrections Systems; the Boundary Commission; the Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission; and Tri-Met

Greg McMurdo, Government Relations Manager, presented a summary of questionnaire results. Chair Knowles explained the Committee, at this meeting, would reach an agreement of intent and direct staff to draft resolutions for Council action. Therefore, the Committee would not be reviewing the resolutions themselves. Mr. McMurdo explained the first part of the questionnaire dealt with Boundary Commission governance and functions. All questions assumed the Commission's funding would remain the same (come from Commission assessments). He said a majority of the Council favored merger of the Boundary Commission and Metro, whereby the Metro Executive Officer would appoint Boundary Commissioners. Mr. McMurdo noted that Councillors DeJardin and Kelley had telephoned their responses. He said that Councillor Kelley had said she favored Commission staff being housed at Metro and that she was concerned about the Commission being "too pro-city." He also stated Councillors Kirkpatrick and Kelley had emphasized to him that they felt it important that the Commission maintain a non-political status.

Motion: Councillor Ragsdale moved to direct staff to prepare two resolutions for Council consideration of a merger of the Boundary Commission and Metro with the Commission hiring and directing its own staff. The other version for consideration would recommend merger providing the Metro Executive Officer hire and direct staff.

Councillor Ragsdale stated he recommended public hearings. Councillor Knowles agreed and stated Boundary Commission staff would be invited to testify. Councillor Kirkpatrick said she concurred with holding public hearings. She also stated she felt budgetary evaluations were needed and that the model established by the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission was amenable to a Metro/Boundary Commission merger.

Vote: The vote on the motion resulted in all Committee members present voting aye. Councillor Bonner was absent.

The motion carried.

Council Administrator Don Carlson indicated there were other merger questions to be resolved included appeals process, staffing/autonomy and decision-making authority. Councilor Knowles directed staff to develop a list of questions to be presented at the next Committee meeting. Councilor Ragsdale requested staff to take assertive action to recruit interested parties to testify at the public hearing.

Mr. McMurdo said questionnaire results on regional parks and libraries indicated that the Council clearly favored conducting an in-depth study on whether a regional system would be advantageous and examining a wide range of regional issues including formulation of a comprehensive plan.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved and Councilor Waker seconded to recommend the Council adopt a resolution to undertake a study of regional libraries including an analysis of benefits of a regionalized system, funding and implementation plan.

Councilor Ragsdale said the intent of his motion was to direct Metro staff to conduct a library study, and the study results forwarded to the Council for appropriate action. Councilor Knowles said he preferred the results of all such studies be forwarded to the Council.

Vote: All four Committee members present voted aye. Councilor Bonner was absent.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved and Councilor Waker seconded to recommend the Council adopt a resolution to a) conduct an in-depth study of advantages and disadvantages of establishing a regional park system, b) include operation and financing issues, and c) report the results to the Council.

Councilor Collier emphasized her view of the purpose of the parks and libraries studies was not to compile an inventory. She stated the Metro Council had previously authorized a regional park study, and the product had been an inventory of park facility. Councilor Waker stated that an inventory may have been a first step of a political strategy to facilitate discussion and advancing issues. He said he would like to see a carefully thought-out political strategy and campaign developed for the parks and libraries studies.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in all four Committee members voting aye. Councilor Bonner was absent.

The motion carried.

Mr. McMurdo stated the portion of the questionnaire that had dealt with the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) asked five questions: 1) whether Metro should be exempt from budgetary review by the TSCC, 2) whether Metro should assume the functions of a regional tax supervising commission with the commission appointed and staffed by Metro, 3) whether Metro should assume the functions of a regional tax supervising commission with the commission hiring and directing its own staff, 4) whether the TSCC should be maintained status quo, and 5) other recommendations. John Hauser, Administrator for the Interim Task Force on Regional Governance, said that a Task Force Subcommittee had held a hearing for and received testimony from jurisdictions subject to the TSCC regarding forming a regional commission. He said another hearing had been scheduled for July, 1988 at which time jurisdictions in Washington and Clackamas Counties would be asked to testify and the TSCC would be requested to testify on cost estimates for increasing staff and Commission time to provide regionwide supervision. He also said during the first hearing a member had expressed interest in forming a statewide commission.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved and Councilor Waker seconded that staff be directed to draft two resolutions for Council consideration, one to abolish the TSCC, the other to merge the TSCC with Metro and to hold public hearings.

Councilor Ragsdale clarified his motion by stating that "abolish" as used in the motion referred to statutory deletion and repeal. Mr. McMurdo said that testimony given at the Task Force hearing indicated the TSCC was deemed as providing a valuable service to smaller jurisdictions who were without adequate resources within their budget to hire attorneys for advice on local budget law.

Vote: The vote on the motion was unanimous with all Committee members present voting aye. Councilor Bonner was absent.

Motion carried. Chair Knowles directed staff to schedule a public hearing and invite testimony from jurisdictions and interested parties.

Mr. McMurdo said the portion of the questionnaire that dealt with Tri-Met issues asked four questions: 1) whether Metro should assume the functions of a mass transit district immediately after legal impediments were removed, or at some future date; 2) whether a study should be conducted; 3) whether status quo should be maintained, or 4) whether there were other recommendations.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved and Councilor Collier seconded to recommend the Council adopt a resolution authorizing Metro to assume the functions of a mass transit district by a date certain with the date to be decided after discussion by the full Council.

Councilor Ragsdale stated the intent of his motion was to move this issue to the full Council in order that Council could give clear guidance to the Interim Task Force. Councilor Waker pointed out that the Council had considered this issue in 1983, at which time he had received several letters from business concerns that were opposed to Metro assuming mass transit functions. Councilor Knowles stated that he felt accountability was a justification for a merger of Tri-Met and Metro and that there could be other justifications. He questioned whether moving the issue to the Council would provide adequate opportunity to identify other justifications. Councilor Collier supported the motion stating that Tri-Met was a regional agency attempting to deliver services on a regional basis, therefore, examination of merger issues met Metro's statutory assignment. Additionally, she stated Tri-Met service to outlying areas of the region was questionable. Councilor Kirkpatrick also supported the motion and said she felt it appropriate to move the issue to the Council for discussion of timing and existing legal impediments. She also stated that she had been a member of the Tri-County Local Government Commission which had developed the framework for Tri-Met and that it had been that commission's intent that Tri-Met and Metro merge at some point under a directly-elected body. Mr. Hauser said the Interim Task Force had discussed a Metro/Tri-Met merger. Most of those discussions, he said, however, had centered around accountability issues; and there had not been a detailed analysis of the financial impact of a merger.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in all four Committee members present voting aye. Councilor Bonner was absent.

The motion carried, and staff was directed to draft a resolution for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

1. Consideration of Minutes

Motion: Councilor Waker moved and Councilor Collier seconded to approve the minutes of the April 19, 1988 meeting.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in all four Committee members present voting aye. Councilor Bonner was absent.

Motion carried unanimously.

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There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwen Ware-Barrett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gwen Ware-Barrett
Council Committee Clerk

gpwb
PD.517