

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**3:30 PM**

**2021 Metro Council Briefing with Senior Staff**

**This meeting was held virtually**

**Council meeting**

**1. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum**

Metro Council President Lynn Peterson called the virtual zoom meeting to order at 3:38 pm.

**Present:** 8 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Elect Mary Nolan, and Councilor-Elect Gerritt Rosenthal

**Absent:** 1 - Councilor Sam Chase

**2. Information/Discussion Items****2.1 5 Year Financial Forecast (Presenters: Brian Kennedy, Marissa Madrigal)**

Metro Staff Toby Fitch introduced Chief Operation Officer Marissa Madrigal, who explained that Metro's contemporary situation and operations has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. She emphasized that there is a lot of uncertainty about which practices will remain and which will not after the pandemic. Ms. Madrigal introduced Chief Financial Officer Brian Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy explained the 5 year financial forecast. He reviewed how budget reduction have been effective, and that the timing of economic recovery from the pandemic is uncertain. Mr. Kennedy outlined the future financial situations of each of Metro's major funds, including the General Fund, Convention Center, Portland's 5, Expo, Oregon Zoo, Parks and Nature, and Waste Prevention and Environmental Services.

*Councilor Discussion:*

Councilor Christine Lewis expressed dissatisfaction with seeing expenditures exceeding revenue in many funds. She noted that she hopes there are areas where restructuring is possible so that revenues exceed expenditures.

Council President Peterson noted that fixing long term structural deficiencies is an area that the council would like to work on, but they are big decisions.

Councilor-Elect Mary Nolan emphasized that the current projection is what will happen if no action is taken. She continued that she would like to communicate more with staff about different ways of achieving desired outcomes.

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzales commented that he saw some hope in the projections and noted that he would like to see financial projections portrayed in a different way. He suggested including potential revenues along with potential investments, while still differentiating them in some way.

Mr. Kennedy noted that the 5 year financial forecast is typically updated once a year. He then explained that the WPES fund is comprised from multiple sources, and how that affects projections.

Ms. Madrigal noted that the work of the council and decisions made has made the projections not as bad as they could be.

## 2.2 Metro 2021 Priorities (Presenter: Marissa Madrigal)

Ms. Madrigal reiterated the values driving Metro decisions and explained the strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

She explained Metro's strategic operating framework. She noted that Metro's first priority is to maintain mandated functions. She explained that the next set of priorities are driven by Metro's values, including community capacity grants and the health of Metro employees. She next noted projects that might need reevaluation because they do not contribute to Metro's mandated functions or values.

Ms. Madrigal next reviewed Metro's Charter, ballot measures, and current council interests and priorities. She listed council interests of investments in a more equitable Metro, capital investments, planning and transportation, waste prevention & environmental service, parks & nature, venues, and general governing.

*Council Discussion:*

Councilor-Elect Nolan asked for clarification on which outcomes Metro is most committed to, especially in light of constraints due to the pandemic.

Council President Lynn Peterson emphasized that many of the issues facing Metro were not going away and would need to be dealt with at some point in the future.

Council-Elect Rosenthal expressed that he wished that better relations with first nations were listed with Metro values.

Ms. Madrigal recognized the racial disparities experienced by Native Americans. She emphasized that Metro is also trying to improve government to government relations with sovereign tribal nations.

Councilor Stacey noted that Metro could defer expenditures on certain sites in order to address budgetary issues, including transfer stations, the Expo center, and performance art centers kept up but not owned by Metro.

Councilor Lewis noted that some Metro council interests were present in spirit, if not in letter and conveyed a desire to have priorities more explicitly listed. She also noted that there is an upcoming levy renewal that Metro must start preparing for. She emphasized that Metro should maintain its relationships with city, state, and federal governments.

Councilor Craddick expressed surprise that parks and nature expenses outpaced revenue. She asked for the council to look more at the public value of Metro venues and how they will be supported in the future.

Council President Peterson drew attention to Metro's increased role in economic development and transportation. She noted that Metro is not the lead in many transportation projects, and how it should maintain involvement in them.

Councilor Lewis noted that as the region recovers, Metro must continue to care for employees as they come back on board.

Councilor Gonzales noted that Metro partners with jurisdictions to implement many projects. He emphasized the need for balance between leadership policy making and staff process as large projects come down the pipeline in the future. He noted Metro action on climate and what can continue to be done in face of budget cuts.

Councilor Nolan expressed a desire to prioritize climate action so that like promoting racial equity, it underlies everything Metro does.

### 2.3 Individual Councilor Priorities (Presenters: Various Councilors)

Mr. Fitch opened the discussion so that councilors could express what issues they wished to prioritize for the future.

Councilor Stacey reminded council that once the results of the decennial census is received, the Metro Charter requires districts to be redrawn within 90 days. He expressed interest in visiting with racial equity partners to discuss how Metro can identify areas with high concentration of people of color and seek to provide them with more of a voice in the redistricting process.

Councilor Craddick noted that she would like to be involved

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in all interest areas. She asked that council shape the discussion around how priorities fit together.

Councilor Lewis noted that Clackamas County has many new mayors and that her priorities are advocating for her district at Metro. She further noted her priorities of delivering on promises on housing and parks to voters.

Councilor-Elect Nolan expressed her priorities to be affordable housing and homeless support services.

Councilor-Elect Rosenthal noted that houselessness and access to transportation are two crises that he would like to see Metro address.

Councilor Gonzalez reemphasized his commitment to addressing climate change and transportation issues.

Council President Peterson noted that Metro 2070 had been put off due to the pandemic. She acknowledged that creating a 5 year economic recovery plan was more important given the circumstances, but expressed disappointment that the project had been delayed.

### 3.0 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the public meeting at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Connor Ayers, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 01, 2020**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2.1	PowerPoint	12/16/2020	Five Year Forecast Update	121620c-01
2.2	PowerPoint	12/16/2020	Operating Context & Metro Council Priorities	121620c-02