

MINUTES OF THE METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 20, 1999

Metro Council Chamber

Members Present: Ed Washington (Chair), Bill Atherton (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Jon Kvistad

Others Present: Rod Monroe

Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM. He welcomed Councilor Bill Atherton and Presiding Officer Rod Monroe to the first meeting of this new committee. He noted that Presiding Officer Monroe would be sitting in for Jon Kvistad, who had been delayed in another meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE METRO REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 18, 1998

Chair Washington asked for a motion to accept the minutes rather than approve them, as only Councilor Monroe was on the Regional Facilities Committee last year and present at the meeting the minutes cover.

Motion:

Chair Washington moved to accept into the record the minutes of November 18, 1998.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Monroe voted aye, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 99-2747, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AN EXHIBIT FABRICATOR AT OREGON ZOO

Kathy Kiaunus, Assistant Director, Oregon Zoo, explained that the zoo was asking the committee and the Council to authorize issuance of a request for proposal (RFP) for an exhibit fabricator for the "Great Northwest" exhibit at the Oregon Zoo. She said this project began with passage of a September 1996 bond measure. The project is now in its third phase. The phase was the educational classrooms and return path to the zoo's entrance, the second was the new entrance adjacent to the light rail station and the mountain goat exhibit. This phase will be the "Stellar Cove" phase, exhibiting such things as sea otters and sea lions. The exhibit fabricator would make the art pieces to accompany the construction that accommodates the animals. She said the reason this job would not be put out to bid is because the needs are so specialized, a low-bid decision would not be appropriate. The contract would be awarded to the company that demonstrates it could do a wide range of activities, including graphics, writing, and interactive exhibits. She showed the committee the project manual, which is more than three inches thick. She said this portion of the project would cost about \$250,000. She said it was included in the contracts list for this year's budget, but because of the size of the contract the Council needs to approve issuance of the RFP.

Councilor Atherton asked about sea otters and offered some scientific information on their ecological relationship with sea urchins.

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Motion:

Councilor Monroe moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2747.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Monroe voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Kvistad will carry the resolution to a meeting of the full Council.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 99-2751, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING NOMINEES TED KYLE AND DWIGHT REXIN TO THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (MCCI)

Aleta Woodruff, 2143 NE 95th St., Portland, Chair of MCCI, said she would be asking approval of an amended version of the resolution. She said the amended version removes Dwight Rexin's name as a nominee for position 7, District 3. That position will remain vacant. Mr. Rexin was unable to assume the responsibilities of the position at this time. However, he would be considered for positions expected to open this summer. She said today's nominee, Mr. Ted Kyle, is well-known in the West Linn area, as indicated by his resume (included in the meeting record). She said he would fill a vacancy in District 2, position 4. She said he has already attended a meeting, and MCCI looks forward to relying on his experience in public involvement. She said two vacancies in District 4 remain unfilled and MCCI would welcome recommendations for filling those. She requested the committee approve Mr. Kyle's nomination.

Motion:

Councilor Atherton moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2751A.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Monroe voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Atherton will carry the resolution to a meeting of the full Council.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 99-2750, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PORTLAND FOR REFORESTATION ON METRO OPEN SPACES PROPERTY

Charles Ciecko, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, said this resolution would authorize the executive officer to execute an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to reforest Metro-acquired, owned, or managed properties. He said Metro recently passed the 4,000-acre mark in its acquisition effort, comprising more than 135 individual purchases. He said several of those sites covering several hundred acres are in various stages of reforestation. Some of this reforestation is required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, meaning it was recently harvested and must be reforested within a certain time period. The balances are being reforested because Metro staff has determined that reforestation is the most cost-effective method of stabilizing a site. As an example, land that had been in meadow but recently taken over by blackberries might be selected for reforestation because it would be more cost-effective than removing the blackberries, then trying to maintain the land as pasture. Mr. Ciecko said coincidental to Metro's need for reforestation services, the City of Portland's BES has established a watershed revegetation program. Staff with qualifications and experience in regenerating diverse native forest situations has been hired. This IGA would allow Metro to tap that experience and expertise and combine purchasing powers to cost-effectively meet the reforestation needs on Metro properties. He said the department had looked at other alternatives such as hiring its own staff or contracting with private companies. By comparison, contracting with the BES was the most cost-effective.

Jim Desmond, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, added that the BES would make its services available throughout the region, even outside the City of Portland. Most of the work would be in Forest Park, which lies within the city limits. But work is also planned in the East Buttes properties, Multnomah Channel, Cooper Mountain, and perhaps a piece of property that lies along the Clackamas River. He said that under Commissioner Sten's leadership, BES has changed its focus to concentrate more heavily on habitat protection and environmental protection. Further, the watershed revegetation program was intended to be a resource for other governments as well as the city's. He said they charge \$40/hour for professional services; the private sector would charge 50% more than that. He said the cost to this agency for this

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program will be about \$25,000. To hire an FTE to do this would cost considerably more. Beyond that, what is most important is that this program is philosophically and ideologically in agreement with Metro. The BES is trained to build habitat, not just plant trees as the private sector has been trained to do. The private sector focuses on planting trees.

Councilor Atherton said he was surprised no private company produces plants for habitat.

Jim Morgan, Regional Parks and Greenspaces, said there are nurseries that do supply native plants. In fact, the City of Portland has contracted with some of those nurseries to grow plants for this project. However, the nurseries need a guaranteed market in order to grow some of these plants. It takes one two three years to grow some of these plants, and the nurseries need to know there will be a market when the plants are grown.

Councilor Washington asked if there might be some way of involving schools in some of this work. He said in the late 1940s and into the 1950s after the Tillamook burn, there was a tremendous reforestation effort that involved high school students from all over the city and the state. He suggested that today schools might be able to exchange student labor for \$1000 or \$500.

Mr. Morgan said that not only would be a possibility, it had already been planned for this year. He said with the amount of acreage involved, the program could not rely entirely on volunteer labor. Most of the work would need to be done with contract labor. At one site, a group called "Salmon Core," from North Portland, were involved. Salmon Core involves a number of Native American students interested in working in the environmental field.

Councilor Washington said he understood that involving students today is much more difficult that it was in the 1950s. However, he thought it would be in Metro's own interest to do so. As the young people grow up, they will understand their stake in projects like this and perhaps be more willing to support them with their tax money.

Councilor Atherton asked if the department had been in touch with Eric Carlson at the Clackamas River Basin Council. Mr. Morgan said he had spoken with Mr. Carlson, but not with regard to this project. Councilor Atherton said the Council is looking for projects like this and they have students from Milwaukie High School who would like to participate in programs like this.

Motion:

Councilor Atherton moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2750.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Monroe voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Washington will carry the resolution to a meeting of the full Council.

Ms. Woodruff addressed the committee. She said she had attended a BES meeting at which they discussed this technique regarding the Columbia Slough. She said Councilor Washington was on a video the BES used for educational purposes. She said it was a very good video.

7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS: TO DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

Chair Washington asked Presiding Officer Monroe to describe the function of this new committee.

Presiding Officer Monroe said Metro Operations is a new committee and this is its first meeting. He said it would have jurisdiction over issues that formerly went to the Regional Facilities Committee in addition to issues that relate to Metro Operations, intergovernmental affairs, and anything relating to the building and its functions such as the child care center and the parking facility. He said it will be an important committee seeing considerable action.

Councilor Atherton said he had a serious subject to discuss, and that was maintenance. He said too often maintenance is not adequately planned for in the budget. He asked if Metro had sufficient money reserve money available for maintenance.

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Councilor Washington said he did not know the specific numbers, but money has been budgeted for maintenance. He said that he knows there is always room for improvement. He said he would have Jennifer Sims, Director of Administrative Services, make a presentation to the committee on the financial status of the buildings and the funds available to maintain them.

Councilor Atherton said the most important question is whether Metro maintains reserve accounts and what kind of informational system it has. The second question is whether they are adequately funded and at what levels.

Chair Washington said he would put a briefing on this on the next agenda.

Councilor Monroe said that since MERC manages most of the physical buildings, perhaps it would have most of the numbers.

Councilor Washington said an important order of business that will be addressed soon is Metro's relationship with MERC. He said this committee needs to understand exactly what the agreement is Metro signed with MERC last year and how that fits in with the rest of Metro's facilities.

There being no more business to come before the committee, Chair Washington adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.

Prepared by,

Pat Emmerson
Council Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1999

The following have been included as part of the official public record.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Resolution 99-2751	January	Amended version, Resolution 99-2751A, with Dwight Rexin's name removed.	01209MO-1