

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

10:30 AM

Joint MERC and Council Work Session

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mfvc4K38G0>,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or 877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar

Council Work Session
ID: 615079992)

Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council President Lewis called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30am.

Councilors: Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Ashton Simson.

Chair: Stoudemire Phillips

Commissioners: Martinez, Hall, Rusoff, Malan, Paul, Penilton.

Work Session Topics:

Expo Futures: COO Findings and Recommendations report

Venues Visioning update

10:30 Expo Futures: COO Findings and Recommendations report

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1- Guiding Principles Resolution](#)
[Attachment 2- Evaluation Overview](#)
[Attachment 3- RFEI Report of Findings](#)
[Attachment 5 - Recommendations](#)
[Attachment 6-Guiding Principles](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her), Metro, Paul Slyman (he/him), Metro, Giyen Kim (she/her) to present the Expo Futures: Coo Findings & Recommendations Presentation.

Staff pulled up the Expo Futures: Coo Findings & Recommendations Report Presentation Powerpoint to present to Council.

Summary of presentation: How the expo center can be re imagined for the future to create long term financial sustainability & honor Japanese Americans along with tribal groups within the Expo Center.

Paul Slyman explained how the presentations' goal is to show what the expo center should look like in the future. More specifically how it

should be looked at as significance of history as it is related to the local tribes & Japanese Americans.

The presenter Lynn Parks spoke about how important it is that Metro looks at the Expo Center as a historical site instead of just an arena. She explained how her family who are Japanese were once held at the Expo Center during World War two. She went on to say that the Expo Center should hold more than just a small insignificant piece to reflect on the history and it would be good to plan that out soon.

Katie Macdonald spoke more about the local tribes within the Expo Center area & explained that the Expo Center should be protected due to having such important history for the tribes & that the tribal groups would be open to a green sustainability area for the tribes in the Expo Center and that they want to be very involved with the process.

Ed Washington went on to say that there is no other area in Portland that has 53 acres of land & that this should be protected due to that reason. He also explained that the venue should have a reminder about all the "bad" history that Expo once held to reflect today. Ed, spoke on the history of sport events that were taken in the Expo Center & how those events hold a significance to the beginning of sports in Portland.

The presentation ended.

Marissa Madrigal went on to recommend that the Expo Center should have black, indigenous, and Japanese sites. She also went on to show how the Expo Center should remain & how we have an opportunity to use it for a bigger vision and maintain space for community.

She also wants to take action to recognize Expo as a site of historical significance and wants to work with all the people who hold historical significance to the expo and to raise money for this project.

She also wants to redevelop Expo to use for amateur sports as it will create more money to the local economy & create a better community and to communicate with local jurisdictional partners.

Chair Stoudemire explained that she is excited for the plans & acknowledged the importance of the plan.

Council President Lewis went on to explain how the plan would not be where it is today without Community & that the work is going to be

credible for families in the region.

Councilor Gonzales went on to acknowledge the plan is going to expand Portland & that sports is the key to this plan succeeding.

Commissioner Peterson explained that the plan is exciting and how it is unique & should produce a good ROI.

Councilor Hwang explained that sports brought Portland millions of dollars in revenue to the local economy & that this plan is a good idea.

Councilor Nolan explained she would like to move forward with the plan and figure out how to carefully move forward with the plan.

Councilor Simson explained how this is a great chance to create opportunity for the local community & to make Portland seen as a "go to city" to bring people for sporting events.

Commissioner Malan emphasized that she does not want the performance arts sector of expo to be forgotten about as they plan to focus more on the sporting side of the expo center plans.

Presenters and commissioners all agreed that this plan should move forward and there were no questions.

12:00 Venues Visioning Update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Steve Faulstick (he/him), Metro, Susan Hartnett to present on the Venues visioning update:

Susan Hartnett spoke on the different visions staff had on the future of the venue and came to the conclusion after many interviews within Metro that it should be a diverse vision that implements Metro's standards.

Deputy Council Lewis asked if Susan had interviewed a State level authority in regards of the funding.

Susan answered that she wanted to keep the interviews more "in home" but she will do so in the near future as it is necessary.

There were no further questions.

12:10 Chief Operating Officer Communication

COO Marissa Madrigal introduced the newest employee in the office Yohannas Wolday who's role is Partnership and Community Investment Program Manager & spoke about his previous experience.

12:15 Councilor Communication

Councilor Lewis mentioned she and councilor Nolan will be switching roles in regard to legislative updates prepared by staff.

She then spoke about a meeting the following day (03/01/2023) which is meant to address homelessness.

She mentioned Councilor Simpson is testifying on the same day as well.

Communication ended.

12:20 Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Lewis adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:33am

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant