

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023

10:30 AM

Strategic Targets Town Hall

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85669404815>

Council meeting

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85669404815>

1. Public Communication

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 6 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 1 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal

3.

Council President Peterson thanked the jurisdictional partners, stakeholders, and Metro staff for moving the project forward. Peterson explained that this project was conceived at a budget meeting in November of 2022, which was followed up with a meeting in February of 2023 to clarify direction. Because of the sense of urgency to move forward in a strategic way, council had directed staff to work with stakeholders around the region to develop North Star targets in the areas of environment, housing, and the economy. Peterson then announced to the audience attending the meeting that there would be an opportunity for them to share their thoughts and encouraged those attending to give input.

President Peterson introduced Connor Ayers (he/they), Legislative and Engagement Coordinator, to go over the polling.

Ayers explained to the audience that he would launch a demo poll and shared the voting results.

President Peterson then introduced Val Galstad, Director of Strategic Operations, Metro, Andrea Celentano, Policy Advisor, Metro, and Ina Zucker (she/her) Program Director, Metro, to present on the Metro Strategic Targets presentation.

Summary of presentation:

Galstad gave a brief summary of how the work was put together by stakeholders and staff members from around the region. Galstad then went over phase 2 and noted that 76 stakeholders were involved in 11 visioning sessions, and for phase 3, there were internal and external subject matter workshops along with council briefings. Galstad then went over the list of external stakeholder attendees.

Galstad then introduced Zucker to go over the first draft targets in the area of the environment.

Zucker thanked those who have participated in this project, then went over target development and refinement portion of the presentation, which included the top issues that stakeholders wanted to focus on, such as climate change, resilience for people + nature, ensuring that targets do not duplicate existing Metro plans/work, and increasing food recycling and compost. Zucker then went over staff recommendations and key regional metric goals, which include the reduction of emissions, sustainable communities, and regional resilience.

Zucker then passed the next portion of the presentation to Andrea Celentano.

Celentano went over the venues visioning themes, target development and refinement, which included what stakeholders had voiced.

Ayers mentioned to Celentano to pause as he had to put the voting poll back up for the previous portion of the presentation.

Ayers put the poll up, then let Celentano continue with the rest of the presentation.

Celentano went over the resilience for all staff recommendation slide then went over strategy 1, attracting, retaining, and supporting business growth, strategy 2, development-ready communities, and strategy 3, workforce development training.

Ayers then announced he would put up the voting poll for this portion and gave the audience a minute to do so.

Galstad then went over the housing component of the presentation, and the visioning session's themes. Galstad explained that the focus was on housing location, density, and equality. Galstad then went over the target development and refinement portion of the presentation and mentioned that it aligns with much of the work that Metro is already doing, but it will also help resolve challenges. Galstad then went over the staff recommendations for housing targets and noted that the objective of this target is that the market provides ample housing at all levels critically and, everyone in the region can access housing that meets their needs. Galstad announced they would track area median incomes and concluded the presentation by letting Ayers put up the voting poll.

Ayers put the poll up for the audience and shared the results.

Council President Peterson opened the public comment portion of the meeting to members of the audience and asked Ayers to go over the procedure for public comment.

Ayers went over the procedure for public comment.

Bob Salinger, Conservation Willamette River Keeper, explained that two things he did not hear were that natural areas will be prioritized in this process and acknowledged that Metro is doing a good job and noted that it is a mistake, as they should focus more on natural areas

and that the results from the polls are different from what he hears from the public. Salinger then mentioned the environmental piece of the presentation has no mention of wildlife, which he mentioned should also be included.

Ayers introduced Nancy Hamilton, Executive Director of East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District.

Hamilton spoke about expanding the UGB related to housing and mentioned that she believes there has been a real challenge and her district has been keeping that boundary in place to ensure ample farmland is available. Hamilton then explained expanding the urban growth boundary (UGB) where services don't exist will be challenging, and she noted that the amount of green space near houses is important and encouraged staff double down on that matter.

Ayers introduced Ashley Henry. Henry noted that Metro should do further analysis on the type of jobs and companies that are part of the attraction strategy. Yet, if we continue to attract certain types of jobs that can drive unaffordability, then it will continue to create more housing challenges.

Ayers introduced Chair Kathryn Harrington,

Chair Harrington thanked staff for the work they have been doing, and encouraged staff to pursue targets they can control and influence.

Ayers then introduced Paul Philpott. Philpott thanked council for including the carpenters and encouraged council to look at community benefit agreements with housing and ensure that developers will benefit the communities with jobs being created that can be stable enough to let workers provide for families.

Ayers introduced Jana Gastellum, Executive Director for Oregon Environmental Council.

Gastellum encouraged staff to think about this project in an integrated way and mentioned that 25% of people can't drive due to age and disability, so there is a need for a better transportation system that focuses on people's needs in the lowest carbon way possible.

President Peterson thanked staff for all the hard work, then mentioned to the audience they can provide written comments by emailing legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov.

Galstad then announced that after the next work session, there will be a resolution to adopt these targets by the end of October or early November. Following the adoption, there will be implementation planning, and it will include more conversations and learning on how Metro can work with partners.

End of presentation.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:23am

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant