

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y94uzYNZQsk>,  
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or 877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar  
ID: 615079992)**

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

**Present:** 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

**2. Public Communication**

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items. Three people testified.

Lynn Handlin, Portland:

Handlin explained that she works for Extinction Rebellion and was here to talk about the Regional Transportation Plan. She noted that this plan fails to meet the climate smart strategy goals, and more importantly, it fails to boldly address the climate crisis beyond those goals. The crisis of climate change means that the Council needs to take bold action. She discussed that there was a decision to widen Powell Boulevard and cut down large, mature trees in the process, and the Powell Project was described as safety improvements, and there were some safety improvements, but part of it was removing trees to increase the line of sight so people can drive fast safely. Handlin suggested that they should lower the speed limit and save lives and save the trees. She added that they need a plan for livable future, safety and justice, and a planet that is not burnt up for the future generations. Handlin asked the Council to follow the science, follow what the public is calling for, and do the right thing. She requested that the Council vote down this plan and come up with a plan for a livable future.

John Giacoppe, Portland:

Giacoppe identified himself as a resident of District 6 and stated that he was here to talk about the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan. He stated that this plan should be amended before its passage due to the current traffic safety crisis, which is not mitigated in the Plan, and mentioned that there is a record number of road deaths. He mentioned that in Districts 3 and 4, walking and biking is extremely difficult, and it is dangerous for people to bike or walk in many areas. He noted that he would like this plan to center bikers and pedestrians, not just drivers. He stated that bigger roads lead to more emissions and less space for other modes of transit. He urged the Council to deny project approval if it is a harmful project. He mentioned Chapter 4 of the plan, which discussed equitability in terms of what projects are approved and noted that equity is only in the plans, not the projects. He recognized that it is a huge step to apply it on a project level, but urged Council to begin considering this, warning that otherwise, they will not meet their goals and they will not get the kind of Portland that they need.

Kathryn Maack, Oak Grove:

Maak stated that the RTP should be rejected and called it unprincipled. Maak stated that the plan's details do not address climate change, nor the transportation industry's contributions to it. Maak discussed page 350 of the plan, which says that less than 1% of ODOT's \$12.61 billion constrained project list is being allocated towards walking and biking. Maak added that Oregon's goals are to reduce emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 75% below 1990 levels by 2050, and that they are failing to meet those goals, which could mean they could fail to reach the 2050 as well. Maak stated that they cannot put their faith in idealized consumer behavior to solve a problem as dire as carbon emissions. Maak also urged the council to cut the funding of the I-5 corridor expansion. Maak also requested that projects should be individually evaluated based on

Metro's safety, climate, and equity criteria. Maak finally stated that the bulk of the funding should be put towards biking and public transportation.

There being no further people who wished to testify, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

### 3. Presentations

#### 3.1

Parks and Nature Annual Report FY 22/23

Attachments: [Staff report](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Jon Blasher to present the Nature Annual Report FY 22/23

Staff pulled up Parks and Nature Annual Report FY 22/23 PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

The presenter discussed the Parks and Nature annual report, which includes the renovation of Blue Lake Park. The presenter shared information on the budgeting for restoration and maintenance, stating that the money went towards 103 habitat and water improvement projects, 6,751 acres with restoration projects underway, 15 planting projects, and 80 weed treatments. They discussed park improvements, how their work has an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the implementation of meaningful community engagement programs that make sure the barriers to Metro spaces are easily accessible to all. The funds also worked on diversity, equity, and inclusion in contracting and protecting the land. The presenter shared that they had 159 total burials and 66 burial purchases. The presenter addressed the total spending for the year, and their follow-ups on the audit. They have a work plan for the audit which is already underway. The presenter then discussed the next steps.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Lewis thanked Jon Blasher for the report and asked about future opportunities, asking if there will be expanded opportunities for community engagement, and noting that she wants to see the community engagement accelerated.

Blasher stated that yes, the team has been looking into this, and the quality of the interactions is something the team is working on to be as thoughtful and strategic as possible.

Councilor Lewis noted that water safety issue is important, through life jackets, but also through helping save lives and increasing access to recreation.

Councilor Rosenthal noted that Blue Lake Park is a part of major access, and asked if the restoration will impact the ability for people to access and utilize it for educational purposes.

Blasher addressed this, noting that a lot of the renovation is maintenance with bathrooms and other amenities. In addition to that, Blasher noted that they are laying the groundwork for utilities, and the community will have input on how they want to access the lake and more opportunities for recreation on the water. In terms of access that will be aided to get to the park, they are looking at transportation to getting there, which is a bit out of scope for the project but something they are also considering. They also have funds in the bond to update the infrastructure to ensure people can connect to amenities, as well as more ADA accessibility.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there is a tool that helps people best find, access, and plan trips to parks and recreation in the region.

Blasher responded that they do have a website where the parks are, but he will investigate that to see if there is something that can be shared out publicly regarding that.

Councilor Gonzalez added that this is very important, thanked the team, and asked about how COVID procurement has been growing over time and what practices they are employing to support that growth.

Blasher responded that the procurement team conducts a lot of outreach, and they work to have a variety of scale of projects that they work on. He noted that the COVID procurement statistics ebb and flow, but they are intentional about it and ensuring environmental and cultural equity. Blasher also stated that the team is continuing to learn and grow.

Councilor Hwang mentioned fiscal stewardship for this, and asked if there is a long-term plan for this to sustain the programs and maintenance.

Blasher responded that yes, there is a long-term plan, and they are looking at options for long-term sustainable funding. Blasher added that there is a potential strategic roadmap underway, and they are exploring different avenues for implementation. They want to make sure they update their equity and accessibility plan, their Tribal engagement plan, as well as their capital asset and maintenance plan.

Council President Peterson noted that there are some things

they need to do before they see the engagement plan and asked to set something up for that discussion in the future.

There being no further discussion, Council President Peterson moved onto the next agenda item.

**4. Consent Agenda**

Council President Peterson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

- 4.1 Resolution No. 23-5367 For the Purpose of Authorizing Metro to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of Oregon for the 82nd Avenue Property Acquisition Fund

Attachments: [Resolution 23-5367](#)  
[Staff Report](#)

- 4.2 Consideration of the October 12, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

- 4.3 Consideration of the October 19, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

- 4.4 Consideration of the October 26, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Councilor Lewis stated that the passage of Resolution No. 23-5367 is a huge deal for investment and for opportunity. She thanked Councilor Hwang and congratulated him.

Councilor Hwang added that they are really excited for the 82nd avenue passage and they have just started their first home ownership opportunities.

## 5. Resolutions

- 5.1 Resolution No. 23-5359 For the Purpose of Proclaiming Support for Congressional Legislation to Establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Federal Indian Boarding School Policies Act

Attachments: [Resolution No. 23-5359](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1](#)  
[Attachment 2](#)

Council President Peterson called on Katie McDonald (she/her), Tribal Liaison, Metro, and other staff to present to Council on Resolution No. 23-5359 For the Purpose of Proclaiming Support for Congressional Legislation to Establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Federal Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters depicted the horrific treatment of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Hawaiian Natives inflicted by white colonizers. Children experienced physical, sexual, spiritual, and mental torture. They have since identified over 500 boarding schools, and Oregon is home to the first federally funded boarding school west of the Mississippi river, called the Forest Grove Industrial Indian Training School. There is an enormous number of people who went



to these schools who died and went missing, and the generational trauma is severe. Presenters hope that this resolution will highlight the impact that these boarding schools have had on Indigenous community members, and work towards giving more resources to Indigenous people. Presenters noted that there is a large intersection between the understanding that could come from the passage of this resolution and what they could do in their work at Metro.

*Council Discussion:*

Councilor Gonzalez thanked the presenters for their leadership and remarked that he was proud to support this Resolution.

Councilor Hwang agreed with Councilor Gonzalez and thanked them presenters for continuing this work. Councilor Hwang also asked what the Council's role is in asking for the support of partners to have conversations about this, and what the role of education is to make sure these conversations happen.

McDonald remarked that they would be more than happy to help start the conversation and support connections and education with partners.

Councilor Lewis added that the letter will be powerful to educate the community. Councilor Lewis also thanked the presenters for their hard work and labor, acknowledging that she wanted to help support them in the future. She also noted that this bill number should be on the top of the Federal agenda.

Councilor Rosenthal agreed with the other Councilors who spoke and noted that he supports the resolution.

Council President Peterson agreed with Councilor Lewis,

thanking the presenters, and added that they do not need another work session on the letter.

McDonald added that on November 28th, there will be people who will present on the Indigenous Child Welfare Act after the work session and invited the Council to attend.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

**A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Lewis, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

## 6. Ordinances (Second Reading)

6.1 Ordinance No. 23-1502 For the Purpose of Annexing to the Metro District Approximately 23.71 Acres Located on the North Side of NE Evergreen Rd, East of NE 30th Ave, and West of NE Starr Blvd

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 23-1502](#)  
[Exhibit A](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson called Glen Hamburg (he/him), Regional Planner, Metro to present to Council on Ordinance No. 23-1502 For the Purpose of Annexing to the Metro District Approximately 23.71 Acres Located on the North Side of NE Evergreen Rd, East of NE 30th Ave, and West of NE Starr Blvd.

**Public Hearing:**

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on Ordinance No. 23-1502. There were none.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

**A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this Ordinance was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

#### **7. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Deputy COO Andrew Scott provided an update on the following events or items:

There were none.

#### **8. Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Simpson noted that he went on a trip with Councilor Gonzalez to LA and highlighted that they want to make sure to prioritize taking care of their vulnerable communities.
- Councilor Lewis noted that the EXPO Futures Sport committee had a meeting yesterday and they had a good discussion. The group had a good discussion regarding historical legacy. They will be sending a few delegates to Spokane in the second week of December to look at a podium.
- Councilor Gonzalez added that they had a spirited and robust conversation at JPACT this morning about the RTP and they agreed to approve and forward their recommendation.
- Councilor Lewis added that the JPACT meeting this morning was important because it confronted the transportation future and how they pay for it. There

was a last-minute amendment proposed that discussed how they would strive for a regionally balanced system, but that was turned down to encourage equity to be the priority.

- Council President Peterson went to the swearing in of their new commissioner in Multnomah County and it was a good energy in the room.

## 9. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgia Langer, Legislative Assistant