

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
[https://www.youtube.com/live/buBhYQt5NMo?
si=mGiNvh228zKix8sj](https://www.youtube.com/live/buBhYQt5NMo?si=mGiNvh228zKix8sj), <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID:
615 079 992 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

Council work session

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber. You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/buBhYQt5NMo?si=mGiNvh228zKix8sj>

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: 5 - Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Mary Nolan, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Ashton Simpson, and Christine Lewis

Excused: 2 - Duncan Hwang, and Lynn Peterson

10:35 Work Session Topics:

10:40 Oregon Zoo Draft Campus Plan Financing

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council Deputy President Lewis introduced Heidi Rahn (she/her), Oregon Zoo Director, Metro, Andy Shaw (he/him), Director of Government Affairs & Policy Development, Metro, and Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer, to present on the Oregon Zoo Campus Plan; Priorities and financing plan.

Staff pulled up the presentation to present to Council.

Summary of the presentation:

Rahn provided a comprehensive overview of the zoo's mission, emphasizing their commitment to sharing positive animal-related stories and highlighting the successful Zoo Lights event. Additionally, Rahn addressed the council's resolution No. 23-5357, outlining the acceptance of campus plan concepts, recent updates on the conditional use permit renewal process, and ongoing outreach efforts to neighbors and stakeholders. Notably, Rahn informed the council that permit submissions are scheduled for November, with a follow-up presentation to the council expected in the spring.

Transitioning to the zoo's budget, Rahn underscored the

significance of community support and emphasized the zoo's reliance on dependable investments for sustaining its operations. Rahn delved into the current phases of a long-term responsibility plan, geared towards realizing a 20-year vision. Phase 2 was particularly highlighted, focusing on investment prioritization that considers key values, involves experienced staff, and emphasizes delivery and impact.

Rahn then went over the prioritization criteria for Phase 2, encompassing animal well-being, enhancing guest experiences, addressing risks and readiness, and strategic alignment. Specific investment areas were identified, including Coastal Shores and Central Hub, Great Northwest, African Savanna, Herpetarium & South Hub, and the Zoo Entry. Notably, Rahn outlined the estimated costs for Phase 2 at \$350-400 million, with an anticipated completion time of 10-15 years.

Kennedy, presented an overview of the bond renewal, highlighting that it is anticipated to be up to 9 cents per \$1000 assessed value, translating to approximately \$2.10 per month for homes assessed at \$275,000.

Following Kennedy's presentation, Shaw outlined the proposed next steps in the process. These steps include initial council actions, subsequent staff work, and outreach efforts over the coming months. Shaw expressed optimism, suggesting that voters are likely to approve the plan given that it is a renewal. The anticipation is that the community will recognize the continuity and value in renewing the bond.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal asked if there have been any concerns

identified by the city in this time frame and then he followed up with a second question asking if the zoo decided to do something with the former children zoo, and if that would be part of the current funding plan or a whole separate project.

Rahn addressed the first question by explaining that the city has not yet reviewed the master plan as the city will get the information in December however she noted that they have had meetings with the city and they have not shown any concerns, and then regarding the former children zoo, rahn explained that they are looking at an assessment of that property and an appraisal however she mentioned that it is not part of Metro property so it is not part of the master plan yet.

Councilor Gonzalez noted that the master plan addressed the key values and that he appreciates the emphasis on the guest experience.

Councilor Lewis thanked staff and then noted the numbers on the plan look obtainable.

Councilor Rosenthal asked if part of the bond will go to make improvements on the condor facility.

Rahn explained that they are seeking private and federal funding for the condor species and currently they are investing \$2 million into the facility.

Councilor Lewis noted that zoo partnerships are essential, and the chart is helpful and then thanked Kennedy for making things clear, and then asked Kennedy if there will be time to make a renewal next year.

Kennedy explained that there is some flexibility and that in the year 2025 they will need to maintain the levy rate.

Councilor Lewis asked if they expect the bond to be the same over the years.

Kennedy explained that in general yes however there are some debts within bonds such as the 2006 natural area bond, 2008 zoo bond, and the 2019 parks and nature bond, and they try to manage the overall tax rate to make it fair for voters.

End of discussion.

11:25 Chief Operating Officer Communication

11:30 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Nolan gave an update on the CORE and mentioned that they met last week and thanked 3 veterans for their services and that CORE is actively recruiting for the committee. Secondly Nolan mentioned that one of the members will participating in the urban growth management stakeholder table to be a voice for the organization.
- Councilor Gonzalez mentioned on Friday he was in Vancouver, WA for a workshop with the RTC to advance the cities RTP and then he announced that the first Latino CDFI is launching in 2024 and that he sits on the steering committee.
- Councilor Rosenthal announced that the RTO is continuing to meet.
- Councilor Lewis went over the letter from Welcome Home to consider a future for the affordable housing plan and that she met with stakeholders from Welcome Home and they are thinking about launching a stakeholder table and she will be in touch as she hears more from them.

11:35 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council Deputy Lewis adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:04am

Respectfully submitted,

Sermad Mohamad

Sermad Mohamad, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21 2023

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	11/21/2023	Staff Report - Oregon Zoo Draft Campus Plan	112123cw-01