

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7oajseO4UE

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://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 10:32 a.m.

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

10:35 Work Session Topics:

10:35 Expo Future project update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)
[Attachment 4](#)
[Attachment 5](#)
[Attachment 6](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Paul Slyman (he/him), GM of Major Projects, Stephanie Redman (she/they), Expo Future Project Manager, James Jessie, Travel Portland Ed Washington, PSU, to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Expo Future project update to present to Council.

Presenters described the progress and future plans for the Expo Future project. Paul Slyman outlined the agenda for the meeting, which included updates from various committees and stakeholders involved in the project. Ed Washington discussed the work of the Historical

Significance and Memorialization Committee, emphasizing the importance of memorializing the history and culture of the Expo site, particularly the stories of impacted communities. James Jesse highlighted the Sports and Facilities Committee's efforts to develop a strategy for pivoting the Expo Center to a sports-focused facility while considering the site's historical and cultural significance. Stephanie Redman outlined upcoming engagement processes, the sports feasibility study, and funding strategies. Marissa Madrid expressed excitement about the project's potential to bolster Oregon's sports industry while commemorating the site's history and promoting community education and unity.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan inquired about funding for this project, Slyman explained that they are looking into sponsorships, naming rights, public/private partnerships, philanthropy, federal money.

Councilor Rosenthal wondered about the types of sports they were planning to include in the project, Jessie responded that they are exploring track sports, water sports, and court sports, aiming to make sure it will be a flexible space for inter-seasonal sports. Redman also explained that they are doing market research to determine the best mix of available sports.

Councilor Hwang brought up the potential revenue of esports and if they are considering including them in the project. Slyman explained that the Expo project's aim is to attract tourism and participation, so they are not excluding any possibilities that could attract people to visit.

Councilor Gonzalez emphasized sports as an important tool for growth in the whole region, and asked about the commercial redevelopment on the site that they mentioned in the presentation. Redman responded that those possibilities are still to be determined, based on what is decided for the rest of the space, to figure out things like lodging, restaurants, and retail are best suited to support the ways the space ends up being used. Gonzalez inquired about the possibility of long-term partnerships with teams in Portland, like the Winterhawks or a WNBA team. Slyman responded that he would love to secure an anchor tenant like that, and they are trying to achieve that.

Councilor Lewis brought up a potential 'athlete in residence' program for Olympians and other top-tier athletes, and also emphasized the importance of ensuring that this space will be an inclusive space for all who use it. Slyman agreed on the importance of this.

Councilor Simpson noted the possibility of something like interactive courts and other technology that will make the space more attractive.

Council President Peterson inquired about the timeline, and Slyman explained what proposals will be made in the next year.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how we plan to enhance transportation between PDX and the Expo Center, Marissa Madrigal explained that the MAX does run both to the airport and to the Expo Center, emphasizing that as a huge asset to the project, and that they are making sure to improve other modes as they go.

Councilor Hwang inquired about disaster preparedness and

if Expo could be used as an asset during disasters, and Slyman answered that they are planning to include that in the design process.

Councilor Nolan emphasized the importance of differently-abled athletes within the inclusion goals. Presenters agreed and noted the ways this is already being implemented.

Councilor Lewis commented making sure the area served as a proper Welcome to Portland from people coming from Washington.

Council President Peterson asked presenters if electric vehicle charging stations were being considered, and Slyman responded that they will be now.

Councilor Simpson noted that he would like the history of the space be told all over the center, not just in a corner, overshadowed by the sports.

There being no further business, Council President Peterson moved on to the next agenda item.

11:20 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:
There were none

11:25 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Hwang went to the grand opening of the new OHSU and Adventist health center near Mall 205, easily accessible by public transit and near many affordable housing units.
- Councilor Lewis attended the groundbreaking for

Balfour Park, which also served as a groundbreaking for Bowman-Brae Park and Scott Park. She also noted that she was present for the Housing Land Advocates conference on Friday.

- Councilor Rosenthal mentioned going to the housing forum in Tigard the previous evening, and how important it is to address the housing issue on a regional basis.
- Councilor Nolan celebrated the grand opening of Emmons Place, a new affording housing development in Northwest Portland.
- Council President Peterson announced that the region and state received \$450 million for the Rose Quarter LID and \$38 million for Broadway improvements, highlighting the success of collaborative efforts and emphasizing the need to address transportation funding issues in preparation for the 2025 legislative session.

11:30 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 11:54am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant