

Metro

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Metro

Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 19, 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=Jb7peOknW9U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb7peOknW9U)

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 10:30 a.m.

10:35 Work Session Topics:

10:35 Supportive Housing Services FY23 Regional Annual Report

Presenter(s): Patricia Rojas (she/her), Housing Director, Metro
Liam Frost, Assistant Housing Director, Metro
Susan Emmons, SHS Oversight Committee Co-Chair

Attachments: [Staff report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Patricia Rojas (she/her), Housing Director, Metro, Liam Frost, Assistant Housing Director, Metro, Yesenia Delgado (she/her), SHS Housing Manager, Metro, Susan Emmons, SHS Oversight Committee Co-Chair to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Supportive Housing Services FY23 Regional Annual Report to present to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Patricia Rojas (she/her) Metro Housing Director introduced the Supportive Housing Services FY23 Annual Report to present to Council. Rojas passed the presentation to Yesenia Delgado (she/her), SHS Housing Manager to discuss the agenda. Delgado provided an overview an overview of supportive housing services, followed by a review of the second-year progress for the regional annual report, highlighting key highlights, challenges, and opportunities identified by the oversight committee. The committee,

comprising 15 community volunteer members with diverse experiences, is tasked with providing independent oversight of the program on behalf of the metro council. Their responsibilities include fiscal oversight, recommendations for local implementation plan approvals and changes, and ensuring alignment with the plans. The presentation also emphasized the committee's role in reviewing county annual reports and preparing a regional annual report, which assesses overall performance and outcomes. The goals of the supportive housing services measure were reiterated, including reducing barriers to housing stability for communities of color and connecting households experiencing homelessness to permanent supportive housing. The presentation concluded with a snapshot of revenue collection and distribution for SHS, outlining the tax revenue, distribution to county partners, and breakdown of costs. Patricia Rojas introduced Susan Emmons, SHS Oversight Committee co-chair.

Emmons provided an overview of the committee's work and the progress made towards the ten-year goals of the program. Notably, nearly 3000 of the 5000 permanent supportive housing (PSH) goal has been achieved, with 10,528 individuals placed or stabilized in permanent housing in the second year alone. The retention rates have been impressive, with 98% of households remaining housed twelve months later. Emmons emphasized the crucial role of nonprofit and community-based organizations in implementing the program and building a robust regional system of care. However, challenges such as the growing need, infrastructure building, spending concerns, and workforce capacity issues were identified. The committee's recommendations focused on enhancing communication strategies, ensuring financial and data transparency,

strengthening evaluation frameworks, addressing workforce and capacity issues, and advocating for multi-year capacity building investments. Emmons highlighted the importance of collaboration with counties and Metro to overcome administrative hurdles and implement these recommendations effectively. She further discusses workforce livable wages and highlighted the Tri-County Planning Board's focus on this issue. She commended Councilor Lewis for her dedication to both committees and expressed optimism about progress in addressing livable wages. Emmons also emphasized the importance of streamlining administrative practices to ensure prompt funding and discussed expanding access to health services, strengthening program implementation, and enhancing outreach efforts to better serve homeless populations. Lastly, Susan emphasized the need for garbage pickup at every camp to improve outreach visibility and effectiveness. She shared a story about a man whose life was transformed by the Supportive Housing Services.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis thanked Susan Emmons for her contribution and expressed concerns about data accessibility, she highlights the importance of obtaining a comprehensive picture to ensure that individuals don't fall through the crack in both services and data systems.

Yesenia Delgado, SHS manager reflected on the effectiveness of outreach strategies, admitting that she had never considered it from the perspective presented, finding it enlightening. Recalling instances where she referred individuals to services, she emphasized the misconceptions surrounding shelters and the importance of guiding people into the system. Expressing concern about the accessibility of funding for small nonprofits in Multnomah County, she

proposed alternative approaches to capacity building and subcontracting to streamline the process. Despite acknowledging opportunities for improvement, she remained hopeful about the potential to address homelessness more effectively with greater urgency and collaboration among stakeholders in Multnomah County.

Councilor Hwang expressed gratitude for the compassion evident in their work. He sought specific strategies to address these issues and expressed a desire for council support in overcoming obstacles and making progress in these areas.

Susan Emmons acknowledged the extensive work done by the dedicated team. She further states the prospect of increased funding within the system juxtaposed with years of study prompts reflection on the journey from discussions to tangible action. With experience spanning decades in organizations like Northwest Pilot Project, she recalls the evolution of the discourse from mere study to practical considerations. Central to the discussion is defining what constitutes a livable wage, anchored in the affordability of housing for entry-level workers.

Councilor Hwang questioned why a minimum wage floor can't be established, drawing parallels with public funding sources such as the Portland clean energy fund, where applicants must adhere to a minimum payment level, suggesting that non-profits could similarly adapt to such requirements.

Patricia Rojas (she/her), Housing director mentioned that the Tri-County Planning Board has identified setting a living wage as one of their primary goals and anticipates a comprehensive report in early summer to address

challenges and strategies for implementation. Emphasizing the need for collective commitment from funders to uplift all workers, she underscores the importance of recognizing the value of fair wages and expects further discussions on the matter with the council and oversight committee.

Councilor Simpson expressed gratitude to Susan for her work on the topic, acknowledging its significance amidst ongoing debate and foreseeing positive outcomes from the current direction. Agreeing with many of Susan's recommendations, particularly those aligned with the auditor's report, he poses questions regarding the causes of eviction pressures and strategies for disseminating the shared information to foster informed discussions and dispel misinformation.

Susan Emmons explained that eviction prevention efforts are multifaceted, addressing rent increases, post-moratorium challenges, and unexpected financial burdens to avert homelessness. While emphasizing the importance of disseminating such information universally, she reflects on the challenge of finding effective communication strategies to ensure broader awareness and understanding of available resources.

Councilor Rosenthal commended Susan Emmons for her dedication and the progress made in addressing homelessness, reflecting on historical contexts, and noting the ongoing need for coordinated workforce development efforts. He poses questions about aligning county definitions and addressing homelessness-related challenges on public transportation, particularly regarding coordination with TriMet to redirect individuals towards appropriate services.

11:35 WPES: Waste Fee Policy Task Force

Presenter(s): Marta McGuire (she/her), WPES Director, Metro
Brian Kennedy, (he/him) Finance and Regulatory Service,
Metro

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

Council President Peterson introduced Marta McGuire (she/her), WPES Director, Metro Brian Kennedy, (he/him) Finance and Regulatory Service, Metro, to present on the WPES: Waste Fee Policy Task Force.

Presentation Summary:

Marta McGuire, Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Department director, expressed gratitude to the council for the opportunity to present recommendations from the Waste Fee Policy Task Force, seeking guidance on implementation. The task force, comprising diverse stakeholders, convened over six months to develop recommendations for improving the fee-setting process and proposed revisions to Metro's financial and waste fee policies. McGuire acknowledges the active participation of committee members and stakeholders in shaping the recommendations before delving into further details with Brian providing additional context on solid waste fees. Brian Kennedy (he/him), Chief Financial Officer, outlined outlines the various statutes, charters, codes, financial policies, and fee criteria adopted by the Metro Council. Highlighting the challenge of operationalizing the criteria due to their non-prioritized nature, he reflects on the productive process

of reevaluating and restructuring the criteria to better serve staff, council, industry, and other stakeholders.

McGuire continued the presentation, outlining recommendations from the Waste Fee Policy Task Force and sought direction on implementation. The task force extensively reviewed and updated criteria for solid waste fees, focusing on fiscal responsibility, accountability, and public benefits. Recommendations include improvements in engagement and collaboration, clear information sharing, maintaining separate fund reserves, and updating Metro's financial policy. The task force prioritized criteria for fee development, emphasizing accessibility, environmental health, affordability, and the public-private system. McGuire concludes by seeking guidance from the council on next steps, including policy updates and fee implementation.

Council Discussion:

President Peterson wanted clarification on the reason behind the assembly of the WPES taskforce.

Marta McGuire stated that the taskforce was pooled together as a part of the budget note that was provided to WPES for this fiscal year to look at how fees around solid waste can be set.

Councilor Nolan reflected on the task force's work, they acknowledged the diverse perspectives and open dialogue that led to strong consensus on recommendations. They emphasized the importance of understanding and respecting different viewpoints, particularly regarding equity considerations, and recommend the council adopt the task force's recommendations for implementation by the staff.

Marta McGuire underscored the importance of better communication about the use of funds and the need to maintain engagement with local government partners, particularly from Washington County, to ensure continued collaboration and input.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed confidence in the updated guidance presented, noting the diverse perspectives represented in the documents and presentation. He acknowledged the ongoing conversations and questions surrounding the future of the system and the role of community partners, appreciating the efforts of Chair Nolan, Vice Chair Lewis, and Councilor Simpson amidst the passionate engagement in the industry.

Councilor Rosenthal commented on the task force's intensive work over a short period, noting the importance of keeping abreast of technological changes and emphasizing the need for more explicit wording on adaptability and technological advancement in fee usage. Additionally, he highlighted the absence of a clear educational component for reducing and reusing waste, suggesting it should be addressed for better accessibility. Finally, he remarked on the challenge of providing comprehensive public information, recognizing the complexity of reaching diverse audiences across various municipalities and groups.

Top of Form

President Peterson reflected on the journey leading up to the establishment of the task force, acknowledging a need for better communication and engagement with stakeholders to achieve a more balanced approach. Looking ahead, she sought clarification on how the newly established criteria would inform future budget

recommendations and decision-making processes.

Brain Kennedy, (he/him), CFO Metro summarized that the recommended fee criteria would guide setting fees at the full cost of service, impacting the Waste Prevention and Environmental Services (WPEs) budget and the investment of fee revenues by Metro's departments. Additionally, he noted the separation of transfer station operations and the regional system fee, which was already implemented, and outlined the tentative plan to propose fee adjustments based on these criteria in the following month's meeting.

12:15 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal, COO provided an update on the following events or items:

- Affordable Stakeholder Advisory Table is next Monday to solve the lack of affordable housing funding and revenue options.

12:20 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Lewis provided an update on the TRI-County body meeting and the committee is working to stand up the regional program getting funded across three-county. The Oregon city enhancement city grant for Metro Grant application period is due May 17th. Lastly. The Metro football club met to reduce barriers and needs the of community in the sports field.
- Councilor Simpson reported on the Travel Portland and the event was successful and uplifting.
- Councilor Rosenthal updated on the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization and their budget was flat as well. They viewed the upcoming technology on

their bomb technology.

- Councilor Gonzalez mentioned that on Thursday he saw the Westside Economic Alliance hosting a policy conference, with Councilor Lewis and President Peterson in attendance at the full house gathering held at the Hidden Creek Community Center. He also noted that upcoming Thursday morning would feature a JPAC meeting with ODOT's Lindsey Baker visiting to discuss revenue and transportation, aiming to establish a foundational understanding as they work on the 2025 transportation package

12:25 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anushka Kargathara

Anushka Kargathara, Legislative Assistant