

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 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/live/x6PaIKGYXFE?
si=LRI7OŞcSrJGuHgG_
Council meeting](https://www.youtube.com/live/x6PaIKGYXFE?si=LRI7OŞcSrJGuHgG_)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council President Hwang called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Present: 6 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Duncan Hwang, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

2. Public Communication

Public comment may be submitted in writing. It will also be heard in person and by electronic communication (video conference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by emailing legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Written comments received by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting will be provided to the council prior to the meeting. Testimony on non-agenda items will be taken at the beginning of the meeting. Testimony on agenda items generally will take place during that item, after staff presents, but also may be taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the legislative coordinator by phone at 503-813-7591 and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify to legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Those wishing to testify in person should fill out a blue card found in the back of the Council Chamber.

Those requesting to comment virtually during the meeting can do so by joining the meeting using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or 888-475-4499 (toll free) and using the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom or emailing the legislative coordinator at legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this item be approved the Consent Agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

3.1 **Resolution No. 24-5408** For the Purpose of Appointing Members to the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5408](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

3.2 **Resolution No. 24-5410** For the Purpose of Re-Appointing Members to the Natural Areas and Capital Program Performance Oversight Committee

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5410](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

3.3 **Resolution No. 24-5403** For the Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operating Officer to Grant a Park Use Easement to PGE at Farmington Paddle Launch

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5403](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Staff Report](#)

4. Resolutions

4.1 **Resolution No. 24-5404** For the Purpose of Adopting Solid Waste Fees at the Metro Transfer Stations and the Regional System Fee for 2024-25

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5404](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 to Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 2 to Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 3 to Staff Report](#)

This Resolution was delayed for vote until May 2nd, but Deputy Council President Hwang called on Brian Kennedy, CFO, to be available for questions from Council in preparation of the vote next week.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Nolan expressed support for the resolution and gave an overview of the task force's inception and purpose. They noted that the task force was asked to recommend a framework for establishing rates, rather than actually asking them to come up with the rates. Nolan also explained that the postponement was to make sure their local partners had more time to properly understand the process that brought them to the rate changes.

Councilor Rosenthal asked about curbside rates, and Kennedy explained that Metro does not set those rates, but that we cover about 20% of the curbside bill. He also explained that the fee increase would end up working out to about \$12 more per year per resident.

Councilor Lewis seconded Nolan's comments and the exhaustive process the Waste Fee Taskforce undertook to arrive at this place.

Councilor Gonzalez echoed Lewis's sentiments and asked about what is going to take place in the week postponement.

Councilor Nolan explained that MPAC recommended the postponement to give people the opportunity to understand

the mechanics of the resolution and allow the Taskforce to answer further questions. They noted that changes will not be made to the resolution.

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

5. Other Business

5.1 Department Budget Presentation: Oregon Zoo

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Deputy Council President Hwang introduced Heidi Rahn (she/her), Zoo Director, to present the Oregon Zoo Department Budget Presentation.

Staff pulled up the Oregon Zoo Department Budget Presentation PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the Oregon Zoo's current fiscal status and future plans, highlighting key personnel changes and achievements. With fiscal year 2024 performing well financially, the zoo anticipates a surplus that will be invested in capital projects. Their focus on staffing, campus development, and financial sustainability remains strong, with a budgeted operating revenue of over \$53 million for fiscal year 2025. Despite rising personnel and maintenance costs, the zoo is committed to maintaining reserves and diversifying funding sources to meet future challenges. Their capital and renewal plan includes investments in infrastructure upgrades, climate resilience, and guest experiences, supported by federal funding and partnerships.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez asked about the access subsidy and how that factors into the budget. Presenters responded that they

have built the 10% free tickets into the budget to ensure access.

Councilor Lewis asked about the staff costs for large Zoo events, and presenters responded that they have been analyzing their variable hour staff usage for these events and managed to convert many of them into full-time positions.

Deputy Council President Hwang asked how to best advance safety and comfort for staff during inclement weather conditions. Presenters explained that they have a staff safety manager who has innovated in a number of ways to improve the experience of staff and is available for addressing issues of this kind. There is also a Workplace Culture Committee run by staff that make recommendations and work with the managers to get their needs met.

Councilor Rosenthal inquired if the campus improvement projects will reduce operating costs in the future. Presenters responded that the slope increase in operating costs is largely due to pay equity measures, and that the positive impact of the campus improvements will likely be visible in the expenditures projections further along in the timeline.

Councilor Nolan emphasized the importance of designing the upgrades for efficiency that could make the Zoo mostly self-sustaining.

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

- 5.2 Budget Committee Deliberation on the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and to Consider Proposed Budget Amendments

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Attachment 2](#)
[Attachment 3](#)
[Attachment 4](#)
[Attachment 5](#)
[Attachment 6](#)
[Attachment 7](#)

Deputy Council President Hwang introduced Marissa Madrigal (she/her), COO, Metro, Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO, Metro, Brian Evans (he/him), Metro Auditor, to be available for questions during the Budget Committee Deliberation on the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and to Consider Proposed Budget Amendments.

Councilor Lewis outlined her four budget notes:

The first budget note's objective is to address challenges in the arts sector by allocating \$125,000 towards two grant programs. One program will assist resident performing arts companies in covering venue cost increases, while the other will provide grants to local community-based organizations (CBOs) for venue rentals, collaborating with the Department of Culture and Community. The proposal consists of \$25,000 reappropriation from Special Appropriations and \$100,000 redirected funds in the COO/Council budget.

The second budget note proposed reallocating unallocated General Fund Reserve for Capital towards climate resilience initiatives. This one-time funding, dependent on the remaining balance after required reserves, will bolster Metro's capital reserve in the General Fund, prioritizing climate justice and resilience efforts on Metro property.

The third budget note proposed the hiring a Hatfield fellow to draft a work plan for the WPES Reuse Pilot program. This note emphasizes the timing of this endeavor and directs WPES staff to present investment scenarios, including new resources or reallocation of existing ones, by November 2024. These scenarios aim to establish sustainable funding

mechanisms for reuse organizations, focusing on diverting reusable items from landfills and ensuring measurable effectiveness.

The fourth budget note proposed the establishment of a Washington Park Train Task Force, requesting the provision of staff support from the Chief of Staff and the Council Office Director for three to six meetings. It also suggests additional technical and engagement resources from relevant departments, such as Parks and Nature and/or Planning and Development, as needed. The task force's objective is to examine and provide recommendations on the feasibility and funding options for a whole loop train in Washington Park, involving stakeholders like the public, City of Portland representatives, and Oregon Zoo staff.

Council Discussion

Councilor Rosenthal asked how the two grant programs would be split, and Lewis suggested it be split down the middle but that P5 would administer the allocation.

Councilor Hwang inquired about the scale of need for the arts grant programs, and Lewis responded that the scale of need is quite great due to increasing costs for performances.

Councilor Nolan asserted that their priority lies more with community-led performances, rather than for established performance companies, and requested that half of the fund be set aside for BIPOC community-led organizations. Lewis agreed and noted this.

Councilors requested clarification on the budget note and budget amendment processes, and Madrigal went into more detail about the steps. Kennedy also explained that notes and amendments are submitted on May 4th, the Council votes on them May 6th, and the new budget is adopted in June.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed support for the performing arts grant repurposing, but for further analysis to be done about where exactly the investment would be going. Lewis and Gonzalez agreed on a future work session to discuss further.

Councilor Rosenthal expressed support for the Washington Park train, but worried about the staff time available for the new Washington Park Train Task Force. Lewis agreed and noted that attendance of the meetings would need to be prioritized.

Councilor Nolan expressed concern over prioritizing the train in the Zoo upgrades, because there are other projects that may be neglected. Lewis agreed that the train is not a high priority for the Zoo, but by making it a Portland Park's project, there may be funds from outside of Metro.

Councilor Rosenthal outlined his two budget notes:

The first budget note proposed a Vehicle Mile Tax due to the unreliability of gas tax revenue, particularly in the face of increasing fuel efficiency and electric vehicle adoption. Given the disproportionate impact on the Metro region, a preliminary analysis is proposed to assess the conceptual basis, potential perceptual issues, technical constraints, and revenue allocations for both statewide and regionally based VMTax systems. This analysis would inform discussions with regional legislators, ODOT, and the OTC regarding transportation funding, with anticipated allocations from general fund revenues.

The second budget note proposed a regional value tolling prototype to address the funding gap for transportation in the Portland Metro region. With the pause in the tolling process by Governor Tina Kotek, Rosenthal urged Metro

and its partners to create a solution aligned with regional prosperity and Metro's adopted values. The prototype plan aims to evaluate potential tolling locations, revenue impacts, economic effects, and stakeholder responsibilities, providing a foundation for legislative changes and fostering constituent support. The project would require 1 FTE and \$200,000 for consultant support.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez clarified that the consulting fees are a guess, and that there has not been a conversation yet with staff to what this all will take. Rosenthal confirmed that staff have been informed but have not yet been able to discuss it. Gonzalez also asked who is asking to do this tax, and Rosenthal responded that logic is asking Metro to do this tax because we are the ones with the authority.

Councilor Lewis asserted that she cannot support putting local resources towards tolling at this time, and that her region has no appetite for it.

Councilor Simpson outlined his budget amendment:

The proposed amendment requests that Metro take over financial support of the Portland Traffic and Transportation class offered at Portland State University, which was previously funded by Portland Bureau of Transportation but has recently been cut. The cost would be \$41,000 per year to run the class, including \$15,000 for a facilitator, \$15,000 for PSU facility and assistance costs, and \$11,000 for staff time. The proposal's objective is to demonstrate and increase Metro's leadership in building knowledge in the region. Councilor Simpson made it clear that he has taught this class in the past.

Council Discussion

Councilor Lewis expressed support, highlighting the importance of making sure people across the region know about this free class. Simpson noted this.

Councilor Gonzalez gave support for this amendment and asked which pot the money would come from. Kennedy responded that this type of small expense would likely come from the General Fund.

Councilor Hwang asked what average enrollment is for this course, and Simpson replied that it was roughly 30 students per term.

5.2.1 Public hearing on the budget

Deputy Council President Hwang opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on the Budget Committee Deliberation on the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget and to Consider Proposed Budget Amendments.

Glenda Scherer, Gladstone: Scherer testified against tolling and tax per mile proposals, describing how it would negatively impact her school, staff, and students. She also expressed concern over the technology described in the proposal.

Jackie Kirouac-Fram, Portland: Kirousac-Fram, Executive Director of Rebuilding Center, testified the necessity of Metro funding for the Rebuilding Center. She described the ways in which the center is a vital partner in reducing waste in Portland, and that they will be unable to continue providing these services at this level without funding from Metro. She requested \$200,000 for stop-gap funding for 2024 until a long-term solution can be found.

Anna Kurnizki, Portland: Kurnizki echoed Kirouac-Fram's testimony, and further described the benefits of the

Rebuilding Center to the community and Metro's Waste Prevention goals.

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

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

There were none.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Gonzalez updated Council on an Intel reception he attended for a major semiconductor investment and shared that Governor Kotek announced the creation of a semiconductor research center.
- Councilor Rosenthal attended an event at the Zoo this week and described some of the projects that were discussed there, like new lamprey tanks.
- Councilor Lewis attended the first meeting of the West Linn Vision Task Force.
- Councilor Nolan described some of the topics discussed at MPAC last night.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Hwang adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant