



600 NE Grand Ave.
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oregonmetro.gov

METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vince Jones-Dixon
Gordon Hovies
Mark Shull
Tim Rosener
Pam Treece (Chair)
Mary Nolan
Brett Sherman
Kirstin Greene
Omar Qutub
Steve Callaway
Gerritt Rosenthal
Ty Stober
Keith Kudrna
Alison Tivnon
Sharon Meieran

AFFILIATION

City of Gresham, Second Largest City in Multnomah County
Special Districts in Washington County
Clackamas County
Other Cities in Washington County
Washington County
Metro Council
City of Happy Valley, Other Cities in Clackamas County
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Citizen of Multnomah County
Largest City in Washington County
Metro Council
City of Vancouver
Other Cities in Multnomah County
Second Largest City in Washington County
Multnomah County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Ted Wheeler
Brian Hodson
James Fage
Sherry French
Glen Yung
Joe Buck
Emerald Bogue
Thomas Kim
Luis Nava
Ed Gronke
Denyse McGriff
Terri Preeg Riggsby

AFFILIATION

City of Portland
City in Clackamas County outside UGB
City in Washington County outside UGB
Special Districts in Clackamas County
Clark County
City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County
Port of Portland
TriMet
Citizen of Washington County
Citizen of Clackamas County
Largest City in Clackamas County
Special Districts in Multnomah County

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Laura Kelly

AFFILIATION

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Medha Pulla, Cindy Leicher, Sandy Glantz, Marc, Tracey Lam, Adam Barber, Daisy Quinonez, Tom Egleston, Jim Duggan, Michael Veale, Robert Liberty, Jamie Stasny, Christina Ghan, Robert N, Joe Gall, Tom Armstrong, Kristin Leichner, Laura Kelly, Cindy Leicher,

STAFF: Connor Ayers, Georgia Langer, Laura Combs, Andy Shaw, Eryn Kehe, Liam Frost, Patricia Rojas, Eduardo Ramos, Roger Alfred, Catherine Ciarlo, Malu Wilkinson, Brian Kennedy, Marissa Madrigal, Anne Buzzini, Robyn Stowers, Val Galstad, Patrick Dennis, Emily Lieb, Jenna Jones, Marissa Grass, Jessica Diridoni, Ramona Perrault, Ina Zucker, Kristin Dennis, Ted Reid

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

MPAC Chair Pam Treece meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Metro staff Connor Ayers (he/they) called the role.

Chair Pam Treece introduced Catherine Ciarlo to discuss how information comes to MPAC.

Catherine Ciarlo shared that those who staff the MPAC committee misheard the request around information for the fees and took ownership over that error. She added that the input from this committee is important to Metro and stated that in the future, they will bring that information to MPAC. She apologized on behalf of the staff for that error.

Metro Chief Financial Officer Brian Kennedy shared that Metro Council recommended setting the solid waste fees for fiscal year 2024 to 2025 at the cost of service, in alignment with the suggestions from the Waste Fee Policy Task Force. He shared that this proposal entails an 11.9% increase in the total tip fee, mainly attributed to mixed solid waste at Metro transfer stations. Kennedy added that actors driving these costs include overall inflation in the economy, expenses related to a new operating contract at the Metro Central station, and the regional system fee, which sees only a 1% increase compared to the previous fiscal year. Kennedy welcomed inquiries regarding specific fees, or the process involved.

MPAC Member Discussion:

Mayor Tim Rosener shared that he sat on the WPES task force about rate setting and he interpreted the service model as an overall set of recommendations that included more advice, oversight from the affected municipalities and haulers in the region, and a chance to weigh in on the rate setting process. Mayor Rosener expressed concern about the 11.9% increase, stating that it is above the inflation rate. He requested more time to discuss the rates and programs and requested that Council would honor the 8% commitment and that more recommendations be implemented in the future.

Councilor Brett Sherman expressed gratitude for the recent communication efforts, particularly highlighting Marta McGuire's responsiveness in providing detailed information. Councilor Sherman voiced concerns regarding the proposed cost of service model for setting solid waste fees. He emphasized the importance of considering both cost of service and predictability in fee levels, noting that these concepts are not mutually exclusive. Councilor Sherman questioned the clarity of presenting the committee's approval without specifying the level of fee increase and considering other factors like upcoming bonds and stakeholder impacts. Councilor Sherman reminded people of the original mandate of a maximum 7-8% increase from 2020 to 2027 and the divergence from that trajectory.

Councilor Nolan clarified that the task force did not approve specific numbers but recommended a framework adopted by the Council. They shared that this framework prioritized equity, ensuring equitable access to various services provided by Metro, which often necessitates subsidies across users. Additionally, Councilor Nolan highlighted the importance of a healthy environment, aiming to reduce waste going to landfills, and economic vitality, particularly considering privately owned and operated transfer stations. Councilor Nolan shared that while predictability was discussed, equity, economic vitality, and a healthy environment were ranked higher in importance by the task force.

Mayor Steve Calloway expressed disappointment regarding the upcoming Metro Council vote. Mayor Calloway highlighted concerns about transparency, funding methodology, and rationale, emphasizing the longstanding requests from Hillsboro and other cities. He emphasized the importance of recognizing advisory input and expressed feeling let down. Mayor Calloway also warned of potential consequences such as increased illegal dumping.

Councilor Hwang emphasized the importance of process, good governance, and engaging all relevant stakeholders. He acknowledged shortcomings in bringing the topic back to MPAC as previously requested and noted that local jurisdictional partners felt unheard. Councilor Hwang directed a question to Brian Kennedy regarding the potential impacts of offering a short delay on the overall process and budgeting.

Brian Kennedy responded that a short delay would not significantly impact Metro, as they have flexibility in their schedule. However, he noted that it would have a greater impact on several local government partners who rely on Metro's decision to set new fees by July 1. Kennedy noted that any delay from Metro could potentially disrupt these partners' fee-setting processes, affecting their ability to adhere to their planned schedules.

Councilor Hwang shared that they would be willing to delay the votes to properly have more follow up with the jurisdictions here. He noted that they can have conversation about what these costs mean. He asked if stakeholders would like them to have a slight delay.

Chair Treece noted that there does not appear to be flexibility in the 11.9% increase and added that this delay would only be one week.

Commissioner Shull asked how the 11.9% will be delivered or spent.

Chair Treece asked if people wanted to have a week delay in the decision making of the fee setting.

Councilor Hwang recognized that many wanted to delay the decision and noted that he will communicate that with his staff.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Pam Treece read aloud the instructions for providing public testimony.

No members of the public provided testimony.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Treece moved onto the next agenda item.

3. COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilor Rosenthal highlighted various community initiatives and projects. He mentioned changes in the process of large-scale community visions, emphasizing openness to grants and alterations in application timelines and project scopes. Councilor Rosenthal discussed three approved projects, including the OMSI Center and developments in Forest Park. Specific projects such as the cultural heritage garden at Lone Fir Cemetery and planning at Willamette Cove were detailed, along with updates on activities at the zoo related to the Lamprey conservation efforts. Councilor Rosenthal also provided insights into urban growth management, climate action plans, and safe streets initiatives. He also highlighted waste prevention efforts during Earth Month, including educational presentations and hazardous waste collection events.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Pam Treece moved onto the next agenda item.

COO Updates:

COO Marissa Madrigal informed MPAC about progress made since the launch of the stakeholder advisory table (SAT) regarding housing issues. COO Madrigal emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum in creating housing despite challenges related to homelessness and housing instability. She outlined Metro's role in housing initiatives, such as urban growth management grants and the successful housing bond. COO Madrigal discussed the exploration of future affordable housing funding options, highlighting input from various stakeholders, including the SAT. COO Madrigal shared emerging themes and alignments from stakeholder feedback, including a desire for flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances. COO Madrigal expressed her intention to bring a recommendation to the Metro Council in June, incorporating feedback and research findings.

MPAC Member Discussion:

Commissioner Sharon Meieran shared that she does not believe that the money should be used for anything other than its intended purpose. She suggested that the only purpose should be the ones that the voters approved.

COO Madrigal responded that they are engaging with stakeholders, and that they are not taking all the money away from SHS and putting it toward housing, rather, they are taking some.

Commissioner Meieran stated that that is not how she views that.

COO Madrigal conveyed that stakeholders had emphasized the importance of prioritizing populations served through SHS, specifically populations A and B, noting that the modeling presented to stakeholders heavily favored permanent supportive housing services, focusing on providing units with wraparound services. COO Madrigal expressed alignment between intentions and values in serving these populations and offered further information on the scenarios if needed.

Commissioner Meieran highlighted the importance of aligning intentions with serving vulnerable populations facing significant housing barriers. Commissioner Meieran emphasized the need for greater investment in behavioral health services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, an aspect often overlooked. Drawing from her experience as an ER doctor and street medicine volunteer, Commissioner Meieran advocated for utilizing available hotels or motels to create housing units quickly, suggesting innovative approaches rather than conventional methods. She proposed purchasing existing units to address immediate housing needs rather than investing in new construction, emphasizing the importance of practical solutions.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

There being no committee member communications, Chair Pam Treece moved onto the next agenda item.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Pam Treece skipped the Consent agenda due to lack of quorum.

6. INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Legislative Update

Chair Pam Treece introduced Metro staff member Jenna Jones to present on the topic.

The presenter shared the tone and tenor of the session, the overall state priorities, and Metro's priorities. She discussed that SB 1526 passed, but HB 4042 failed. Presenters shared that equitable and achievable housing production bills passed, as well as a number of other priority bills. The presenter then shared the predictions for 2025.

With no discussion from MPAC Members, Chair Treece moved onto the next agenda item.

6.2 Housing Update

Due to time restraints, Chair Pam Treece postponed this agenda item for another meeting.

6.3 Urban Growth Management: Draft Regional Housing Needs Analysis

Chair Pam Treece introduced Metro staff Ted Reid, Eryn Kehe, and ECONorthwest staff Becky Hewitt to present on the topic.

Presentation Summary:

Presenters discussed the project timeline, and explained how they translate the household forecast into land demand. Presenters shared that the housing needs analysis includes assessments of future and existing needs and presented their findings. They shared the MSA population forecast by age cohort, noting that new growth is in older households. Presenters discussed three housing demand scenarios, explaining that there is a new normal that they will likely experience.

MPAC Member Discussion:

Commissioner Sharon Meieran expressed concern about the underestimation of homelessness in

Multnomah County, citing estimates of over 10,000 unsheltered individuals, not including those in shelters. She questioned the connection between the reported underproduction of housing and the number of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Highlighting the diversity of factors influencing housing trends, such as downsizing and relocation, Commissioner Meieran emphasized the complexity of the issue and raised these concerns to ensure that all relevant factors are considered in addressing homelessness effectively.

Eryn Kehe acknowledged the importance of receiving feedback on the presented scenarios regarding future housing decisions. She highlighted the significance of different perspectives in shaping discussions and outcomes. Kehe clarified that the figure of 12,300 refers to homes, not people. Kehe emphasized the value of understanding the scenarios and their potential impacts on housing decisions moving forward.

Becky Hewitt addressed the debate surrounding housing trends, noting that while some people are indeed downsizing, data suggests that many are not. She emphasized the importance of considering different perspectives when evaluating scenarios regarding housing shifts. Hewitt explained the rationale behind the presented options regarding homelessness and underproduction, highlighting the ongoing refinement of methodologies used to calculate these figures. She offered to provide a more detailed explanation of the calculations and acknowledged the complexity of measuring underproduction. Hewitt mentioned that new numbers were released that morning and indicated that methodologies might evolve before Metro Council makes decisions regarding urban boundaries.

Commissioner Meieran responded that there are no methodologies that are counting everyone correctly and noted that the Point-In-Time count undercounts people experiencing homelessness drastically.

Councilor Rosenthal how quickly they can build houses and if the rate they are currently building will help them.

Councilor Alison Tivnon asked how Portland compares to population growth nationwide.

Ted Reid responded that while their population growth has slowed down considerably, there is a general trend that matches that nation-wide. He noted that people are making choices to have smaller families and that is the big thing driving the slowing down.

Councilor Tivnon responded that they have different development regulations in this region than in other regions and shared that it is interesting to think about what adding hundreds of thousands of homes will do to the land.

Chair Treece expressed appreciation for considering underproduction as a significant factor in the discussion. She acknowledged the potential for rapid changes in housing trends due to various factors like employment. Chair Treece highlighted the importance of adapting to such uncertainties and emphasized the significant swing in numbers presented. Chair Treece emphasized the importance of understanding historical patterns while recognizing potential shifts in the future. She noted the changing dynamics of family size and the repurposing of larger homes as significant considerations moving forward.

Councilor Tivnon offered perspectives from Beaverton and her previous work at Echo Northwest. She highlighted Beaverton's significant proportion of renters and the challenges faced by the aging population in accessing affordable housing. Councilor Tivnon emphasized the importance of affordability in housing decisions and suggested that financial considerations would play a significant role in whether individuals follow traditional housing patterns or not. She noted that age might be a key factor in housing choices, particularly regarding household size.

Councilor Ty Stober reflected on Vancouver's current housing expansion efforts and the challenges of managing growth within existing urban growth areas. He questioned the potential outcomes of different scenarios presented, ranging from slight changes to massive transformations. Councilor Stober pondered the role of policymakers in shaping past and present housing landscapes, noting the deliberate creation of suburbs in previous decades and the resulting challenges. He considered whether current decisions would similarly shape future housing patterns and pondered the consequences of decreasing the proportion of single-family homes. Councilor Stober questioned whether such decisions would prompt people to seek housing elsewhere or if they would adapt to the new housing reality.

Councilor Vince Jones-Dixon echoed the same sentiments that were previously made and stated that he sees similar things in Multnomah County.

7 ADJOURN

Chair Pam Treece adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Langer".

Georgia Langer
Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 27, 2024

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NO.
6.1	Presentation	04/24/2024	Legislative Update Presentation	042424m-01
6.3	Presentation	04/24/2024	2024 Urban Growth Management Decision: Draft Regional Population, Household, and Employment Forecast Presentation	042424m-02