

Metro Policy Advisory Committee

April 14, 1993

MPAC members and alternates in attendance:

Gussie McRobert-Chair, Heather Chrisman, Rod Drake, Bud Farm, Judith Fessler, Judie Hammerstad, Gary Hansen, Bonnie Hays, Gretchen Kafoury, Richard Kidd, Bob Liddell, Chuck Peterson, Arnold Polk, John Reeves, Sandra Suran, Bruce Thompson, Loren Wyss and Jim Zehren

Others in attendance included: Jeff Condit, Andy Cotugno, Lisa Creel, Gary Derr, Richard Devlin, Barbara Duncan, Chris Foster, John Fregonese, Jim Gardner, Ken Gervais, Frank Josselson, Pat Lee, Peggy Lynch, Susan McLain, Frank Nadal, Ben Small, Stuart Todd, Mark Turpel, Chris Utterback, Terry Vanderkooy, Carol Waters and Mary Weber

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson McRobert at 6:19 p.m.

Introductions

Andy Cotugno introduced himself and the Metro staff:

Andy Cotugno, Planning Director	797-1763
John Fregonese, Regional Planning Supervisor	797-1738
Mark Turpel, Senior Regional Planner	797-1734
Mary Weber, Senior Regional Planner	797-1735
Lisa Creel, Assoc. Public Affairs Specialist	797-1507
Ken Gervais, Senior Management Analyst	797-1736
Barbara Duncan, Minutes Secretary	797-1750

Andy Cotugno stated that John Fregonese would be the main staff contact for MPAC, and if he is unavailable, Mark Turpel or Mary Weber. Also Larry Shaw from the Office of the General Counsel will often attend the MPAC meetings.

I. Approval of Minutes of March 10th

Corrections: Bud Farm and John Reeves should have been listed in attendance.

Councilor Gardner asked about the MPAC By-Laws which state that the Council liaison positions will represent each county, Jim Gardner stated that he did not recall such representation being discussed, but that it might be a goal, not always achievable and perhaps should not be in the By-Laws.

Chairperson McRobert stated that she had requested the three county representation, but it could be stated as a preference.

Commissioner Hammerstad stated that the reason for changing from three to two liaison positions was for equal representation from the three counties.

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Chairperson McRobert stated that page 6 should read:

"~~She~~ (Chairperson McRobert) Commissioner Hooley stated the meetings should be ..."

Approval of the minutes as corrected was moved by Mayor Liddell, seconded by Commissioner Hansen and passed unanimously.

II. Communications from the Public - none

III. Multnomah County Parks/Metro Greenspaces Merger

Chairperson McRobert stated that no formal proposal has come from Multnomah County and the discussion is for information only, and hoped a lot of staff time would not be spent on it.

Commissioner Hansen thanked Chairperson McRobert for the complete information included in the packet. He stated that Multnomah County has proposed passing Multnomah County's complete Parks Department and the Exposition Center to Metro. This is a self-funded package that would be transferred in whole. The rationale is that these facilities are of a regional nature. Commissioner Hansen stated that the major parks in the system fit within the Greenspace regional system. He stated that the last report from Metro, which he did not wish to comment on, showed the system would be budget neutral. Commissioner Hansen stated the hope was for the facilities to be run with a regional vision and that MERC has a higher marketing capability, and could run EXPO more efficiently.

Commissioner Hansen stated that the offer had been made and the merger has been included in the Executive Officer's budget and the Budget Committee is looking at it. He stated there was an official policy statement needed from Metro that they are willing to take on these responsibilities. Commissioner Hansen stated that it was a relatively easy decision for Multnomah County as they were shedding a responsibility, it is harder for Metro and they are taking a close look at what might happen.

Loren Wyss asked what the impact on the public might be to the public in terms of service provided and cost. Would Metro's current financial problems cause costs to rise?

Commissioner Hansen responded that there are differences in the agencies methods of budget allocation of indirect costs, and that there may be an appearance of some cost increases because of that. Commissioner Hansen stated that after Multnomah County goes through budget reform, indirect costs will be better allocated, and costs would rise under Multnomah County eventually. He stated that it is not inherently more expensive for Multnomah County to operate the facilities than for Metro to operate them. Commissioner Hansen stated that an advantage would be better utilization of Expo through MERC, and therefore more potential revenues.

Loren Wyss stated that he was concerned about the overhead of a government agency that is in need of new revenue sources, for example Tri-Met has been worried that if Metro takes over, would there be a rise in fares.

Councilor Gardner stated that Metro is looking at the cost more than anything else. The budget for the coming year included the transfer from Multnomah County, it did not assume that excise tax would be levied against any of the income from these facilities. Councilor Gardner stated that Metro does not impose the excise tax uniformly on all income sources, policies allow that certain fee generating activities not be taxed. For the upcoming year (fiscal year starting in July) no excise tax will be charged.

Councilor Fessler asked why the proposal hadn't separated out Glendoveer and the Expo Center from the parks.

Commissioner Hansen responded that they are an integral funded unit. If Glendoveer and Expo were transferred by themselves, the remaining parks would close for lack of funding.

Councilor Fessler stated that the Greenspaces measure will return. She asked about equity in park maintenance. She stated that some cities will say that they don't have large parks to maintain.

Commissioner Hansen stated that Expo and Glendoveer cover the cost of maintenance.

Councilor Gardner stated that a Greenspace bond would be for buying the land, none of it can be used for maintaining or operating the land. The plan, if the measure passed, was to maintain at a very minimal level until funding for operations could be found. The Multnomah County transfer would give Metro a track record of managing parks and lands.

Councilor Fessler stated that the maintenance of the Multnomah County parks transferred would be a separate issue from the Greenspaces measure.

Councilor Gardner agreed and stated that any local jurisdiction may chose to operate Metro Greenspace lands located in their area.

Mayor Liddell stated that the facilities in the transfer package were a mixed bag. Also, he was concerned that the quality of Glendoveer might go down under a new maintenance program.

Councilor Gardner stated that Glendoveer was maintained by a private firm who runs the facility under a long term contract, and that would not change if the facility changed hands.

Sandra Suran stated that this was an excellent opportunity. She stated that there would likely be increased efficiencies.

Councilor Devlin stated that there is a broad variety of facilities, and Council feels it must be budget neutral for Metro to do this.

Councilor Gardner stated that in the short term, the transferred facilities would pay for themselves, and if it is a bigger system in the future, the costs of managing go down because of economics of scale.

Commissioner Hays stated that she has not yet seen a proposal.

Chairperson McRobert stated she was astounded that Metro could look at the transfer without a written proposal and detailed information on all the equipment included.

Councilor Devlin stated that the proposal could have been included or left out of the budget. Eventually a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed.

Chairperson McRobert asked when will an MOU be written?

Councilor Devlin stated soon. He anticipates some decision by the first of the fiscal year. Councilor Devlin stated that Commissioner Hansen feels the transfer could not occur before October.

Chairperson McRobert asked if the MOU would not be developed until after the budget was passed?

Councilor Devlin responded that he understood a draft MOU has been developed by the two agencies that hasn't come to Council yet.

Chairperson McRobert asked if the meeting should go on until 7:15, members agreed.

Councilor McLain stated that the Council was looking very carefully at all aspects of the proposal. She stated that both Washington and Clackamas Counties all had varied parks departments and are looking at the proposal from different viewpoints.

Mayor Drake stated that it may be better to look at this proposal after the budget has passed, rather than rush to meet budget deadlines.

Commissioner Hansen stated that he believed there could be an MOU agreement in 24 hours if necessary, that there was not a lot in dispute. The process had been slowed down to bring the Council in on developing the MOU.

Jim Zehren stated that he remembered hearing in 1981 of the "imminent" merger of Expo with MERC. He stated that generally conference centers don't make money, can this actually be budget neutral? Jim Zehren asked how could the revenue of Expo thru MERC fund the

other pieces of the package under Greenspaces.

Councilor Gardner stated that the transferred facilities would be kept as a distinct package in the budget.

Commissioner Hammerstad mentioned the memo in the agenda packet from Mayor McRobert to Judy Wyers and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting on April 7th for discussion of the merger. She stated that she had requested that MPAC look at this issue.

Chairperson McRobert stated that she was not interested in more discussion on this without a written proposal. She has seen (in Gresham?) \$200,000 worth of work go into \$50,000 worth of results, and is concerned that there is not a formal proposal. Chairperson McRobert asked could we have an MOU by the next meeting?

Commissioner Hansen stated he was not prepared to say that, an MOU would be between the two parties.

Chairperson McRobert stated that it could be called something else. Even if MPAC is not legally required to look at it, the more input the better. She asked if members wanted to discuss this further without seeing something in writing?

Members responded no.

IV. Other: Report on Rules and Procedures

Councilor Fessler stated that she, Arnold Polk and Mayor Liddell had worked on rules and regulations, if anyone has comments on these, please bring them to the next meeting.

Chairperson McRobert stated that rules and procedures and By-Laws will be added on the agenda for next meeting.

John Fregonese asked if this was to be an amendment to the By-Laws or a separate memorandum.

Chairperson McRobert responded that it should be a separate item. She stated that RUGGOs were required reading for the next meeting. Chairperson McRobert adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Duncan

A:IMPAK