



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2022
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Tristan Penn

CORE Members: Daniela Ortiz; Anthony Deloney; Nabin Dhimal; Quincy Brown; Jamila Dozier; Wade Hopkins; Ernesto Oliva; Maria Magallon; Nura Elmagbari

MERC Commissioners: Dañel Malan

Council Liaisons: Councilor Mary Nolan; Councilor Duncan Hwang

Metro staff: Raul Preciado Mendez; Melissa Palavecino; Raahi Reddy; Nathan Sykes; Cassie Salinas;

Absent: Rebecca Descombes; Saara Hirsi; Brandon Culbertson

Welcome

Tristan welcomed everyone into space and asked that everyone introduce themselves by stating their name, pronouns, and affiliation.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Committee Business

Minutes Approval:

Wade motioned to approve April meeting minutes

Jamila seconded that motion

All others in favor.

Community Updates

Commissioner Malan shared that Milagro Theater was currently running a play called City without Altar. About the 1937 Haitian massacre, a really beautiful play told through poetry

and burst. With an amazing Black Latino cast performing the play, and a Black Latina from Berkeley to direct, and the playwright herself is Dominican coming to us from Houston.

Wade shared that the NE Steam Coalition and other partners held a STEAM fair over the past weekend at Faubion School. 144 people stopped by and got a lot of information about their summer programming. With support from the numbers radio station they had a D.J. at the event which was their first in-person event since the shutdown of the pandemic.

Nura shared that her organization is currently helping over 100 afghan families adjust to life in America, and that she received a grant to start working on wellness, including quitting smoking.

Committee Business

Tristan let committee members know that the Co-Chair elections are coming up very soon and that they will happen between now and the June meeting. Metro staff will send out a survey for folks to nominate themselves or others, and the formal voting will happen at the June CORE meeting. Tristan also explained that Rebecca will be stepping down as CO-chair as she recently had a baby and because of that Tristan will be running again for Co-chair. Typically there is one Co-chair position up for election so that the incoming co-chair has support from an established co-chair but because Rebecca is stepping down Tristan feels that for continuity sake he should run again. He encouraged all CORE members with an interest to apply and made himself available for questions.

Tristan also reminder committee members that as a part of the Audit they will be reinstating subcommittees. Which are the Internal, External, and Equity Metrics subcommittees. Next month the remaining folks will be assigned to subcommittees and an email will be sent letting committee members know which one they are in.

Discussion on Parks and Nature Local Option Levy

Presenters: Mychal Tetteh (he/him) Parks & Nature Community Services Program Director and Scotty Ellis (he/him) Parks and Nature Senior Regional Planner

Presenters walked through materials.

Nura asked a question via chat that said “One issue for me is as a woman, a woman of color and a visibly Muslim woman, I don't feel safe walking in areas that others get to regularly explore. I have had horrible experiences in even local neighborhood parks. I know many women like me that feel the same. Are you doing anything to address the concerns we have

regarding safety so that someone like me can enjoy these beautiful areas? I love your work and I am so happy that it is happening but not everyone gets to enjoy it sadly.”

Mychal responded this is something that folks at Metro were having conversations about at an of agency level just the day before. They were talking about the role that safety plays while Metro is also looking at their relationship to the police and the sheriff's office. Obviously there is a lot of complex dynamics, Mychal stated. He continued on by sharing that he was sorry that Nura didn't feel safe and comfortable in all the places that she deserves to feel safe, comfortable and welcome. He stated that it was not okay and sadly has found that her experience is all too common and that it is something that needs to continue to be worked on. He also stated that this is a perspective that should continue to be centered in order to really understand how to meet the needs of the regions communities. As part of that they will be talking about the critical role that the Parks and Nature department plays in staffing to help create safe and welcoming spaces. Mychal was honest about the difficult time they have had in trying to rely on other jurisdictions or partner agencies to create some of those safe and welcoming environments, and is part of the reason why having adequate staff, ensuring that staff is also trained to understand their role and the oftentimes negative consequences that policing can have in critical incidents. They will also be training staff in trauma informed care and how to dial back when it comes to thinking about punishment or escalation of a situation. There's always going to be more work to be done Stated Mychal. He also shared his appreciation of Nura's question. Mychal followed up in the chat with the following “In addition to staffing to provide basic levels of safety and welcoming spaces that I mentioned, our levy funds grants and partnerships with community based organizations that are in the best position to deeply connect with the issues that you experienced, co-create programming and advocate for continued improvements in cultural safety in ways that are most relevant to historically underserved and underrepresented identities in our region. Thanks again for your questions!”

Nura asked a question via chat that said “You said that you do the work in Metro owned lands, what happens to all your hard work when neighboring boundaries are not respecting what you are trying to do? Is there a buffer zone so money, time and effort are not wasted?”

Mychal responded that the nice thing is, based on the kind of land use policies that they have in place a lot of what they are able to accomplish when it comes to habitat restoration really does last. He shared that they received a thank you card from a long time Metro Councilor who used to go to a Metro property yearly and their anniversary to pull an invasive plant and now when they went out, there wasn't anything for them to pull. Instead they were just able to have fun enjoy the park. He share that to say that the policies that are in place as an agency. Some of the land use policies that even supersede Metro's jurisdiction help to protect and preserve and they do so increasingly help to protect and preserve the progress made in habitat restoration. Working between different land use priorities across several different jurisdictions is not without its challenges and some of

those challenges include new development which provides housing for folks. One of the challenges that the Parks and Nature department has seen is how people access parks. Part of the habitat restoration is people use the trails that are maintained as opposed to trampling through places that may have sensitive species or other places that are being preserved. Metro is able to have conversations either with neighbors, one on one, or with whole neighborhood associations, to figure out how they can arrive at a good place, and how they can embrace ways in which those neighbors want to support and steward the land.

Jamila raised the question in the chat “Can you remind us of what it cost taxpayers?” in reference to the levy.

Nathan responded in the chat “I believe it is only paid based upon property taxes and would keep the rate the same as it is now, correct?”

Scotty responded that Nathan was correct. And elaborated that the average taxpayer in the region would be about twenty dollars a year. The same tax rate as the previous levy renewal.

Commissioner Malan asked that when they use high level descriptors and keep it broad, and then talk about accountability, talk about things being very specific, are they going to be looking at the high level description? Or are they going to be looking at the specific accountability more detailed descriptors? And how do those two things work together?

Scotty responded that they would be presenting on both. Stating that they have a high level impact statement. Which is what they believe they are going to be making and then underneath each statement is a descriptor that states what they will be doing, and what they think will be the outcome. What that helps to do is allow for that large impact statement to be understood by staff and community and the underlying intention behind those statements. Sometimes statements have language that use big terms that could mean a lot of different things. Therefore they wanted to make sure that the specificity underneath each is clear enough so that once they go into measuring these things that they will have a solid understanding. If the levy renewal is referred by council, and if it is then adopted by, or pass by the voters, that's the point where they would bring in community to start having conversations to say how do they should measure. Communities would help the way they would measure and what data they would need to make sure that they understand the changes that they are leading toward those outcomes.

Commissioner Malan followed up with a comment on how she hoped that language accessibility could be in the high level descriptor, and that it could get more specific from there. She made this point to highlight that kids who speak other languages, should be able to have those opportunities to be in nature and be able to share that with someone who is culturally aligned with their language and culture.

Mychal responded to Commissioner Malan's comment by stating that the work that Parks and Natures community education and stewardship team is leading the cultural work that Commissioner Malan is talking about. This team is constantly working on best practices to share with the agency and regional leadership initiatives. They are not only ensuring that accessibility and safety is in Parks and Natures programming, but that we are continuing to advance and invest in the next generation of environmental leaders that we have out there.

Daniella and Quincy commented 1:15

Metro Council Update

Duncan Hwang, Metro Council

Councilor Hwang shared that last month a big milestone was reached when council approved the roadmap that will guide land acquisitions for natural areas and connections of regional trails for years to come. Since this measure passed 3 years ago now and this will set the framework for purchasing property across the region through a more inclusive fashion. Which is consulting with tribal partners, and also communities on the ground. On the housing front the 2018 affordable housing bond, a new project was funded that is set to open. Tuck Willa Springs will bring 48 units of permanent support housing to seniors in Gladstone. The apartments will include space for wraparound services for residents to ensure that they're able to stay in the housing. In Beaverton, Council is expecting groundbreaking next month on a new development on Scholls Ferry road which will be a 262 bedrooms in a 164 units including 84, first floor units for seniors. Those two projects will bring us to 228 apartments open through the 2018 bond program. With another 1,200 in construction and 1,650 in permitting and design. An update on the election front. There were a record 5 Metro council seats that were on the ballot. In district, one Ashton Simpson, who is the current executive director of OregonWalks ran unopposed and will be Councilor elect Simpson. He will be taking over and carrying on Councilor Craddick's work and legacy starting in January 2023. In District 4, Washington County, Councilor Gonzalez retained his seat for another 4 year term, and Councilor Hwang was happy to report that he retain his seat in District 6 to serve out the remainder of Councilor Stacey's term. Councilor Hwang also stated that this is a testament to the of racial equity work being done at Metro, for it will have the most diverse council in history. He feels that having those voices from community and leadership is going to make a huge difference in the years ahead. Councilor Hwang also mentioned that they are still waiting for the final results from Clackamas County on their Councilor, and for the Council President. Both Councilor Lewis and Council President Peterson are both ahead their races but the final numbers are not in due to a snafu with the Clackamas County clerk. Councilor Hwang also mentioned that the Metro Auditor, Brian Evans also retained his position. He commented that to him it felt like a new era for Metro, where it has some young diverse leaders who will bring some insight and fresh ideas and looks forward to collaboration with the group to bring Racial Equity to the fore front.

Wades asked in the chat “Is there anything that works to ensure that the job training is not just low wage, manual labor jobs?”

Mychal responded that they are working to create partnerships that understand a holistic way of thinking about the relationship that people have to the work that’s being done and in relationship to the land. Mychal also mentioned that Metro as an agency is undertaking an ambitious approach with a model focused on results based accountability for racial justice. Which focuses on better measures that speak to a lot of what Wade was asking about.

Garbage and Recycling System Facilities Plan Proposed Values and Outcomes

Presenters: *Gloria Pinzón (she/they) Waste Prevention and Environmental Services and Luis Sandoval (he/him) Waste Prevention and Environmental Services*

Presenters walked through materials.

Tristen commented that he would like to see them come back when they have hit barriers, and when their plan maybe causing you a bit of heartache in terms of project planning. He feels that this is where the committee can really help.

Commissioner Malan asked if their plan included more multilingual signage and education for community members on garbage and recycling.

Luis responded that they did have two outcomes related to education under the value of advancing environmental literacy. One of which is related to Goals B and D of Metro's, racial equity strategy. Which focuses on developing the education and programming that have been co-created in partnership with community based organizations and other non-profits. By doing this they feel it will help top make the information more accessible. He acknowledged that providing information in multiple languages was something they needed to look at and will see if that can be incorporated.

questions feature back for I see Nora and Oh, sorry I it's in the chat.

19:30:21 Alright, super ambitious, which is great, but can lead the errors that waste time in the long run.

19:30:27 What checks and balances do you have in place to make sure that this doesn't happen that's a good question, Thanks, Nora.

:29:35 But I I think that is also something we need to look at, whether the information is available in multiple languages.

19:29:45 And other ways to make it more accessible. so I think we will take note of that and see if that you can be incorporated. or if it's already in another outcome, that I might not be remembering off

19:29:58 the top of my head right now

19:30:04 Thank you. Final thoughts. questions feature back for I see Nora and Oh, sorry I it's in the chat.

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hat is actually, very, very good and important that to me, the And then I would welcome. ask these input on this to me that the checks and balances are you know, working alongside a community.

19:30:49 Advisory group is is one. We also have a steering team of internal metro staff, and other parts of the agencies.

19:30:55 So, for example, John Blasher from Parks and Nature, the the director of parking Nature is also in that serving team, and they help as when things go out of control, so like with scope, creep, or with the schedule creep

19:31:09 or budget creep. they are there to help us.

19:31:13 Reroute that's those are some of the the checks and balances that we have.

19:31:21 We, of course, have Metro Council, and we are going to Metro Council at every face of the project.

19:31:27 And I think I would say they are the biggest, not just because counselors are present in the room, but they are our biggest.

19:31:35 You know, check and bounds. Well, I would. I would also add.

19:31:41 The Community Advisory group is a really critical part of this whole process as they're gonna be following the project throughout all phases and actually, work next to staff to address issues.

19:31:56 Or make decisions or recommendations before they're brought to the Council.

One last question that Nora had a follow up with that I want to highlight before we we adjourned for the night.

19:32:10 Do you all have external auditors we don't We don't have external auditors for the project.

19:32:18 The yeah. The only auditor that we have is, you know, the Metro auditor office of the Metro, or Yeah, Yeah.

19:32:27 And then, yeah, just one last thing that outcomes are actually the other check and balance that we have.

19:32:33 That's why we are working hard to develop and refine them. because those are kind of our accountability measures for us.

19:32:41 If we if we had. If we fulfill them, then I think we will have made progress.

Adjourn