

MINUTES OF THE METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Metro Council Chamber

Members Present: Ed Washington (Chair), Bill Atherton (Vice Chair), Jon Kvistad

Others Present:

Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 3:49 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 1999, METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Motion:

Councilor Atherton moved to recommend adoption of the minutes of the June 9, 1999, meeting of the Metro Operations Committee.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilor Atherton and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. ORDINANCE NO. 99-810, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION SCHEDULE FOR FY 1998-1999 BY TRANSFERRING \$50,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO PERSONAL SERVICES IN THE ZOO OPERATING FUND, AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY

Kathy Kianus, Deputy Director of the Oregon Zoo, explained the reason for the ordinance. She said the new restaurant had incurred higher than anticipated labor costs, and the catering volume had been so great that more help would be needed.

Councilor Kvistad asked for Ms. Kianus to clarify that she was referring to the zoo's contingency fund, not Metro's general contingency fund. Ms. Kianus said that was correct.

Councilor Atherton asked what the contingency balance was. Ms. Kianus said she believed it was more than \$500,000. [Editor's note: the exact amounts can be found in Exhibit A to the ordinance, included in the meeting record.]

Motion:

Councilor Kvistad moved to recommend Council adoption of Ordinance No. 99-810.

Chair Washington opened a public hearing at 3:55 PM. No one came forward to testify, so he closed the public hearing.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilor Atherton and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Washington will carry the ordinance to a meeting of the full Council.

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5. RESOLUTION NO. 99-2801, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING FOUR NOMINEES TO THE METRO COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (MCCI), MAY 1999

Karen Withrow, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office, referred the committee to the staff report for the resolution, contained in the meeting packet, for more information on the nominees and the nomination process. She introduced one of the nominees, Trudy Knowles, who was present in the audience.

Councilor Kvistad asked if any of the nominees were from his district. Ms. Withrow said no.

Motion:

Councilor Atherton moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2801.

Vote:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
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No carrier was assigned at the time of the meeting.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 99-2783, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENTERING INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OREGON PARKS FOUNDATION TO ACQUIRE AND MANAGE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE DIACK NATURE CENTER AT OXBOW REGIONAL PARK

Heather Nelson Kent, Senior Manager for Planning and Education, Metro Parks and Greenspaces, noted that this issue had come before the committee at its last meeting. She reiterated that the department was excited about working with the Oregon Parks Foundation.

Councilor Atherton explained why this resolution had come back before the committee. He said when the resolution was first considered, he had understood there to be a general consensus that language would be added somehow to require that this project be constructed so as to minimize environmental obtrusiveness and to have as small a footprint as possible. Also, a commitment would be made to seek to use innovative practices to reduce the impact of human development in a natural area. Various ways of minimizing impact were discussed, including using pervious materials on the parking lot and installing composting toilets in the nature center. The idea of including those principles in the resolution was discussed, but Mr. Ciecko had expressed concern in the meeting that changing the resolution might affect Metro's relationship with the Oregon Parks Foundation.

Councilor Atherton said he had discussed this issue with Mr. Ciecko subsequent to that meeting, and Mr. Ciecko said that in retrospect, he thought it might be appropriate to include those principles in the resolution. Councilor Atherton had then drafted language to amend the resolution and introduced it at Council, at which point the resolution was sent back to committee for further consideration.

Ms. Kent said that the agreement between Metro and the Oregon Parks Foundation would not be affected if design specifications were added to this resolution.

Chair Washington said he was not aware of the conversation between Mr. Ciecko and Councilor Atherton. He asked if the conclusion had been that this resolution would be an appropriate place for design specifications.

Ms. Kent said the department was concerned about including specifics in an amendment, because some of the specifics proposed by Councilor Atherton might not be possible. For example, Multnomah County code specifically requires paved parking. The department could seek a variance, but it might not be granted. Were it to be included as a requirement in the resolution, the project would be stalled at that point. Composting toilets present another difficulty. They can be effective, but in public settings there are no controls over what goes into them. The maintenance staff has therefore strongly recommended against using them.

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Councilor Washington said he understood that the specifics would not be put into the resolution itself, but that they would be included in some other set of specifications.

Councilor Kvistad said he would support adding language that reflects the basic principle presented by Councilor Atherton,--i.e., that the center be constructed in the most environmentally sensitive manner possible. He would not support including design specifics, because they might not be possible or even the most environmentally sound approach for that specific location.

Councilor Atherton said he had included the design specifics to raise consciousness about the issues. He urged continuing to explore the idea of using pervious surfaces, even though they might not ultimately be used. He said that innovative techniques might be more expensive, but he thought it appropriate for Metro to pursue them nonetheless. He noted instances in which pervious surfaces had been used for parking facilities in California and worked well.

Ron Klein, Senior Regional Planner, Metro Parks and Greenspaces, offered a draft of an amendment to this resolution that would reflect the intent of the facility's having a minimum impact on the environment. He emphasized that this resolution represented an agreement to raise funds, not construct the facility. He said that after the funds have been raised, the construction specifications would be addressed.

He proposed the language be amended to read as follows: "That the contracts and agreements for detailed design, construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park specify efficient use of energy and materials that demonstrate innovative methods to minimize deleterious impacts on the natural environment."

Councilor Kvistad suggested striking "...specify efficient use of.." and substituting "...pursue opportunities, where feasible, for efficient use of energy and materials..." He said this would allow for more flexibility in implementation.

Main Motion:

Councilor Atherton moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 99-2783.

Motion to Amend:

Councilor Atherton moved to amend Resolution No. 99-2783 to read, "That the contracts and agreements for detailed design, construction and operation of the Diack Nature Center at Oxbow Regional Park pursue opportunities, where feasible, for efficient use of energy and materials that demonstrate innovative methods to minimize deleterious impacts on the natural environment."

Vote on Motion to Amend:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Vote on the Main Motion:

Chair Washington and Councilors Atherton and Kvistad voted aye. The vote was 3/0 in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Atherton will carry the Resolution No. 99-2783A to a meeting of the full Council.

Councilor Atherton asked for a correction to the minutes. Chair Washington directed Councilor Atherton to provide staff with a copy of his requested changes.

7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Kvistad addressed the transportation design at Expo. He said the design of the northern connection of the proposed light rail line should be addressed before phase 3 is designed. He said that if the line does not go across the river to Vancouver, there might be an opportunity to run the line directly

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against the highway and curve around by the front door of the building. He suggested studying the ramifications of this type of alignment early in the design process.

There being no more business to come before the committee, Chair Washington adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Prepared by,

Pat Emmerson
Council Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 23, 1999

The following have been included as part of the official public record.

TOPIC	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Resolution No. 99-27	June 11, 1999	Metro Operations Committee Report	062399MOP-1
	April 22, 1999	Resolution and attached staff report.	062399 MOP-2
	No date.	Amendment proposed by Ron Klein.	062399 MOP-3