



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2015  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

**Councilors Present:** Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Bob Stacey, Shirley Craddick, Carlotta Collette, Craig Dirksen, Kathryn Harrington, and Sam Chase

**Councilors Excused:** None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:02 p.m.

**1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett updated Council on the following items:

- Ms. Bennett presented Council with a draft version of Resolution No. 15-4640A that will be voted upon at the September 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Ms. Bennett noted that this draft includes minor technical corrections and allows Council to determine placement of unallocated funds at a later time.
- Fiesta en la Plaza, a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, will take place on September 25<sup>th</sup> in the Metro Regional Center Apotheker Plaza.
- Ms. Bennett introduced Mr. Dan Moeller, Metro program director, and Mr. Jonathan Soll, Metro manager, to provide an update on a pending Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rule. Mr. Moeller explained that the DEQ is engaged in a rule making process that pertains to funding for restoration and maintenance and may limit Metro's use of levy bond and dedicated conservation dollars for mitigation. Mr. Moeller noted that the language is still being debated and Metro staff will closely watch the discussion for language that could affect Metro practices.

**2. EQUITY RETREAT FOLLOW-UP: CENTERING ON RACIAL EQUITY**

Ms. Julie Nelson, Government Alliance on Race & Equity, Ms. Patty Unfred, Metro program director, and Mr. Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu, Metro equity program strategy manager, presented Council with a follow-up to the July 30<sup>th</sup> Council retreat that centered on an equity strategy program. Ms. Nelson reviewed national equity best practices that use a centering on racial equity (CORE) approach, discussed a case study of how CORE could be used in a specific Metro program, and provided Council with refined communications tools to describe CORE. Mr. Ocana-Chiu discussed how Metro is already using elements to target racial inequities, using the Nature in Neighborhoods Grants as an example. Ms. Unfred spoke to how Nature in Neighborhoods Grants invests in community projects across the region, connects people with nature, and prioritizes underserved communities.

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilor Collette inquired about the value of starting a dialogue with race equity and noted her desire for consequential impacts in the community.
- Councilor Chase expressed his appreciation for a discussion about good governance and encouraged staff to continue best practice sharing.
- Councilor Harrington spoke using racial equity as a whole term, as it can be helpful when talking about intentional discipline when looking at Metro services, programs, policies, and organizational culture. Councilor Harrington noted that she has embraced the model, but is looking for clarity on how to use these tools for advancement.
- President Hughes suggested a focus on investing in open spaces, climate smart communities, land-use planning, and growth management decisions.
- Councilor Stacey spoke to creating a set of considerations to use when making decisions and influencing regional decision making. Councilor Stacey noted the Powell-Division project as an example, as the Steering Committee discussed development and displacement relating to both economy and race.
- Councilor Craddick expressed interest in bringing the CORE information to a Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting to discuss how an equity strategy can influence the region.

**3. FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

Mr. Tim Collier, Metro Director of Finance, informed Council about the state of Metro finances through the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Mr. Collier discussed how overall revenues performed better than the conservative pace set forth by the budget plan, with expenditures coming in under budget. Mr. Collier noted that The Fourth Quarter Financial Report allows the reader to see how closely departments came to meeting their projections and fulfills the requirement of Metro's financial policies for monitoring and reporting the budget's performance to the Council.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilors Stacey, Chase, and Craddick inquired about and discussed the construction excise tax and policy rationale. Additionally, Councilor Craddick inquired about Oregon Zoo member attendance and plans for nurturing the relationship with zoo members.

**4. AZA ACCREDITATION FOLLOW-UP**

Ms. Teri Dresler, Oregon Zoo Interim Director, provided Council with the report from the Oregon Zoo's July 2015 accreditation inspection, including the inspector's list of concerns and the Zoo's responses. Ms. Dresler informed Council that the Oregon Zoo has been accredited for another five years and noted that the only concern from the accreditation board was Metro's lack of a permanent Zoo Director. Ms. Dresler added that staff is interviewing candidates and will involve Council in discussions with finalists.

***Council Discussion:***

- Councilors congratulated Ms. Dresler and Oregon Zoo staff for their work.
- Councilor Harrington spoke to her satisfaction with feeling involved in the accreditation process and noted that in the future, it will be helpful for Councilors to be informed of the overall general process to help display the importance of onsite evaluations. Councilor Harrington inquired about how zoo keeper practices are maintained between

accreditations and whether employees have the resources to do the job that is expected of them with the advancement of best practices.

- Ms. Dresler discussed a conference where Oregon Zoo staff both present and review other zoos' best practices and animal keeping. Ms. Dresler spoke to the continually evolving standards that AZA puts into place that all zoos must comply with in response to education and regulations.
- Councilor Chase noted that Council is well aware of the hurdle of hiring a new Oregon Zoo Director and noted the importance of taking time and consideration with this hiring, as it will be a long-term position.
- Councilor Craddick inquired about animal enrichment and spoke to the opportunity to engage the public with Oregon Zoo programs.

## **5. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS**

Metro Attorney Alison Kean updated Council on the following items:

- Ms. Kean will not attend the September 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, as she will be at the Oregon City Attorneys Association (OCAA) annual meeting.
- Metro legal staff attended a mini retreat and created an organization chart for attorney assignments to ensure that Metro staff uses their legal counsel to its fullest.
- A new Metro attorney will be hired by the end of the week.

## **6. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Councilor Collette updated Council on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project Partners meeting and spoke to Metro's capacity to complete the project. Councilor Collette noted that Council will be signing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) as the process continues and will provide additional details in future briefings.

Councilor Harrington spoke to an ECONorthwest breakfast forum focusing on economic benefits for older adults and building communities for all ages. Councilor Harrington noted that Council may want to invite the guest speakers from the forum to Metro to discuss the region's design and remodeling opportunities for an aging population.

Councilor Chase noted that the first snapshot event with Equitable Housing went well and community members walked away with a sense that it will take a combination of strategies to tackle housing issues.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Giraud, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Handout	09/22/15	Draft of Resolution No. 15-4640A	092215cw-01
<b>3.0</b>	Handout	09/22/15	Community Development and Planning Grants Updates, Construction Excise Tax	092215cw-02
<b>5.0</b>	Handout	09/22/15	Organizational Charts for OMA Attorney Assignments	092215cw-03
<b>6.0</b>	Handout	09/22/15	WFLP Organizational Chart, WFLP TAC and Workgroup Tasks	092215cw-04