



METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Craig Dirksen, Kathryn Harrington, and Sam Chase

Councilors Excused: Councilors Bob Stacey, Shirley Craddick and Carlotta Collette

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:01 p.m.

1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Robinson updated the Council on the following items:

- The Metro Council meeting on Thursday October 1st will be held in rooms 370 A&B instead of the chambers.
- Work Session for Tuesday October 6th has been cancelled.
- Metro's procurement manager, Gabriele Schuster received two awards for improving outreach in contracting to Minority Women Emerging Small Businesses (MWESB) and advancing equitable procurement practices. The awards were the Leadership Award from the Business Diversity Institute and the Warrior award from the Oregon Native American Chambers.
- Jim Middaugh, Metro Communications Director provided Council with updates regarding Opt-In, the online opinion panel tool used by Metro, work around the solid waste roadmap, community grants and transportation projects.

2. NATURAL AREAS PLANNING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- Mr. Justin Patterson of Metro informed Council of the comprehensive planning process for natural area lands that have been slated for public access improvements as a result of the 2013 Operating Levy investment.
- Mr. Rod Wojtanik described the parks planning process. The parks planning team adopted a 4 step process based around a set of deliverables through public engagement. These 4 steps are:
 1. Information Gathering & Existing Condition Review
 2. Opportunities & Needs
 3. Alternatives Analysis
 4. Preferred Alternative/Draft Plan

Council Discussion:

There was none.

3. KILLIN WETLANDS ACCESS MASTER PLAN

- Ms. Alex Perove of Metro described the purpose of the presentation, which was to provide the members of Council with a detailed overview of the planning process for the Killin Wetlands Access Master Plan. This wetland has an abundance of sensitive plants and animals and is one of the last remaining peat wetlands in the Willamette Valley. The planning process for the Killin Wetlands Access Master Plan project began in November of 2014. Providing the public with safe access into the park is a priority. The plan incorporates renovating a barn, new building facilities, a parking lot and a proposed boardwalk into the wetlands.
- The question for Council is if this draft master plan falls into the goals of the levy.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Kathryn Harrington inquired about public safety issues.
 - Ms. Perove explained that people are standing on the side of Oregon State Highway 6 to view birds in the wetland. The master plan will make viewing the birds much safer.
- Councilor Sam Chase inquired if there will be revenue potential for the barn which sits on the property after it has been renovated.
 - Ms. Perove answered that the levy funds go to stabilizing and fixing the barn. Additional funds could go to opening the barn up to community, which could bring in revenue.
- Councilor Chase requested more information on how the different projects in the plan are prioritized.
 - Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter of Metro answered that public safety is of the highest priority.
- Councilor Harrington appreciates how the plan achieves the goals for public safety and access, but would like to know if the plan addresses conservation and education goals.
 - Ms. Perove replied that the plan does address conservation and education and those goals will also be achieved.

4. COUNCIL CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN

- Mr. Robert Spurlock of Metro introduced the work session, which was to update the Council on the proposed Council Creek Regional trail Master Plan process, recommended alignment, cost, and phasing in preparation for an early winter vote on a resolution supporting the master plan. Active government partners are the cities of Forest Grove, Cornelius, Banks, and Hillsboro, Washington County, Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The steps for the master plan have included additional public engagement and outreach to the Latino community in western Washington County through Adelante Mujeres and Centro Cultural De Washington County. Mr. Spurlock also described the final alignments of the trail, different scenarios of how a typical section of the trail could be constructed and the cost estimates.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Harrington inquired about the funding sources and opportunities that the master plan outlines and which trail would receive priority.
 - Mr. Spurlock replied that the plan will help Metro write grant applications for trail funding. The Hillsboro to Forest Grove trail, which runs through a much larger and denser population, receives priority over the Banks to Forest Grove trail, which would impact far fewer people.
- Councilor Dirksen inquired about why the cost of constructing trails has increased so significantly over the past few years.
 - Ms. Perove answered that most of the easiest to develop trails have been constructed in the Portland Metro Area and the new trails may run through more difficult terrain and offer challenges that previous trails did not. Inflation has also played a small role in increased costs.
- Councilor Chase would like to see in the master plan the number of people who will be using these trails.
- Councilor Harrington suggested that these sorts of regional projects should include all of the Councilors in the planning and public engagement process. This would help the public see these sorts of projects as regionally significant.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

- Councilor Dirksen and Chase had a meeting with the Equitable Housing Working Group on Tuesday, September 29th.
- Councilor Dirksen announced he will attend an Urban League dinner the evening of Tuesday, September 29th, a Road User Fee Task Force Meeting in Salem Wednesday, September 30th, and a Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) meeting on Thursday, October 1st.
- Councilor Harrington went on a tour of Maroon Ponds in western Washington County on Tuesday, September 29th. She noted a significant amount of the land is owned as farmland and Metro has made significant advancements in restoration, conservation and science.
- President Hughes had a meeting with the Kansas City Chamber: Regionalism Panel on Monday, September 28th to talk about how regional leaders and economic development agencies interface with each other in the Kansas-Missouri bi-state community.

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Council work session at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 29, 2015

There were none.