



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2016  
Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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

**Councilors Excused:** None

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:04 p.m.

**1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett previewed video advertisements created by Metro diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) staff, discussed the Metro property Ambleside in Gresham, and spoke to the Star Trek Into Darkness symphony at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

**2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Randy Tucker, Metro policy advisor, provided Council with a report on the short 2016 legislative session, which included Metro Council's legislative agenda, priorities, and outcomes. Mr. Tucker discussed the passage of the transient lodging tax, House Bill 4146, and spoke to Metro's permanent preemption on the construction excise tax and failure to include Metro as an eligible entity to authorize construction excise tax for housing. Mr. Tucker thanked Council for their efforts to get voting members to understand the regional implications of this exclusion of Metro. Mr. Tucker discussed the passage of a heavily negotiated four-bill package related to affordable housing, which works to support funding and policy changes. Mr. Tucker spoke to two successes for Metro, including the passage of the Brownfield cleanup and redevelopment bill, House Bill 4084, and failures of Senate Bill 1548 and Senate Bill 1575, which could use affordable housing to undermine the urban growth boundary. Mr. Tucker discussed the passage of the wetlands bill, Senate Bill 1517, which will enable Metro to move forward on visitor improvements at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Additionally, Mr. Tucker noted the passage of Senate Bill 5701, which provides funding for Cully Park and Willamette Falls Locks and Canal repairs. Mr. Tucker spoke to the focus on land for housing during the legislative session and discussed addressing the assumption that urban growth boundaries are causing affordable housing crises. Ms. Bennett noted that there is a general lack of understanding regarding the relationship between the urban growth boundary and housing. Mr. Tucker noted that he will work with colleagues to advance a housing conversation with the House speaker and key individuals, convene internal group discussions to coordinate the various threads of transportation, and hold a conversation with Metro Council about their priorities with the transportation package. Additionally, Mr. Tucker will generate a set of topics and talking points for Metro councilor meetings with legislators and candidates, as well as returning to Council with information regarding air quality and land use messaging.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Harrington inquired about whether the topics associated with Senate Bill 1547 and Senate Bill 1574 will appear during the 2017 legislative sessions. Mr. Tucker highlighted the timeline of the Senate bills and noted the two main sponsors will most likely bring the legislation back unless there is an alternative, such as a carbon tax. Councilor Chase inquired about various initiatives and noted the importance of clarifying the relationship between land use, housing, and the urban growth boundary. Councilor Harrington spoke to the application of the metropolitan housing rule and Metro Council presence on the Local Officials Advisory Committee. Councilor Craddick recommended meeting with legislators before the next legislative session to discuss Metro priorities and provide details on Metro related topics. Councilor Dirksen discussed the relationship between land designation, development, and affordable housing. Additionally, Councilor Dirksen spoke to creating alliances and identifying new partnerships for the transportation package in the 2017 legislative session. Council President Hughes discussed various issues relating to housing, the role for land supply on the price of housing, and what Metro's regional role in helping address affordable housing. Council President Hughes suggested making appointments with campaigning legislators to establish key relationships and noted that the House Speaker requested the opportunity to meet with Metro to learn what roles Metro plays in the region. Councilor Harrington requested additional information related to air quality and inquired about the status of solid waste life-cycle responsibility. Mr. Tucker noted that solid waste staff have convened a working group with stakeholders and will be determining whether there is enough information to move forward.

**3. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Councilor Chase spoke to co-chairing an Oregon Solutions discussion regarding Swan Island air quality and discussed the odor analysis from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and a more comprehensive study concluded by Portland State University. Councilor Chase noted that there were discrepancies between the two studies and will return to Council with more information. Councilor Chase added that Representative Dembrow invited him to participate in a clean diesels work group. Councilor Collette thanked Council for their participation at the Willamette Falls open house and Metro Council meeting that took place in Oregon City and spoke to positive community feedback. Councilor Dirksen highlighted a recent Region 1 ACT meeting and noted that the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) will be increasing funding for the non-highway enhancement program. Council President Hughes highlighted his experience job shadowing various animal keepers at the Oregon Zoo and discussed connecting with Dr. Don Moore, Oregon Zoo Director, to provide milk for orphaned baby elephants in Borneo.

**4. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Giraud, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2016**

There were none.