



**METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 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 2:05p.m.

**1. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION**

Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett distributed a handout displaying the year in review of the Metro website for 2015 and discussed the associated analytics. Ms. Bennett reminded Council of the Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Open House and discussed a staff level debate regarding the best way to conclude the work around the Title 13 Nature in Neighborhoods Report. Councilors agreed that the report should be presented as a consent item for regular council action. Ms. Bennett updated Council on the Equitable Housing Planning and Development Grant Program and spoke to the upcoming Equitable Housing Lunch and Learn.

**2. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

Mr. Tim Collier, Metro Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, presented Council with the unaudited Third Quarter Financial Report and discussed the state of Metro finances through the third quarter of the fiscal year. Mr. Collier noted that projections for revenue continue to be close to budget and projections for expenditures remain low. Mr. Collier indicated that revenues for the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Center (MERC) are rising, the construction excise tax is continuing strong collections, and solid waste tonnage is up.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Collette inquired about grant payments. Councilor Chase requested details regarding allocation of additional revenue that is not projected. Mr. Collier noted that additional funds from solid waste or venues are allocated to capital grants or areas where Metro fell short. Councilor Harrington spoke to the charter for the construction excise tax.

**3. PLANNING FOR POTENTIAL PARKS AND NATURE LEVY**

Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Metro Director of Parks and Nature, and Ms. Heather Nelson Kent, Metro program supervisor, followed up on Metro Council direction to staff to develop framework for parks and nature investments with the renewal of Metro's five-year local option levy, shared

results from stakeholder and technical work, and requested further direction from Council on continuing work to prepare for a potential levy referral. Ms. Brennan-Hunter discussed potential spending sources and stakeholder engagement, noting that many local government leaders and community based organizations have voiced their support of a potential levy renewal. Ms. Brennan-Hunter spoke to an opt-in survey in regards to the levy in Metro's Big Back Yard magazine. Ms. Nelson Kent discussed framework highlights, including habitat restoration, natural areas maintenance, regional conservation, contractor diversity, park operations, public access improvements, addressing barrier of accessibility, and conservation education.

***Council Discussion:***

Councilor Harrington inquired about the regional trails system and asked for clarification on development. Ms. Nelson Kent noted that most Nature in Neighborhoods trail grants involve restoration, rather than construction of regional trails, due to limited funding. Councilor Craddick asked about addressing safety and recommended providing specific details and rules in the voters' pamphlet. Councilor Chase spoke to the priority of transparency around trails and public access and recommended highlighting how a levy renewal will further enhance the equity work Metro staff has completed. Councilor Collette asked if there was a brief document relating to the dog policy and suggested emphasizing safety and equity in the potential levy renewal. Ms. Brennan-Hunter noted that there is a collection of science literature related to Metro's dog policy. Councilor Harrington expressed appreciation for the annual reports, stories, and accomplishments related to the levy. Councilor Harrington conveyed concerns relating to exploring safety with the levy renewal, noting the possibility of expectations that Metro will take on the responsibility of managing camping on trails. Council President Hughes shared Councilor Harrington's concerns on safety, spoke to favoring a way to give maximum reference to local jurisdictions for policing, safety, and security, and recommended that Metro focus on trail connectivity. Councilor Stacey expressed interest in Councilor Chase's suggestion of facilitating a larger conversation about equity and systematic changes. Councilors directed staff to continue with work to prepare for a potential levy renewal.

**4. METRO ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Alison Kean, Metro Attorney, provided Council with her regularly scheduled Metro Attorney Communications. Topics discussed included:

- Portland State University withdrew its proposed payroll tax
- Managing revisions to the Metro Code and establishing consistency with state law
- Continuing work on a myriad of land use issues and zone changes relating to the current natural areas levy
- Working with local governments to propose a legislative fix to large gaps in the law relating to the recreational risk immunity for property owners and construction employees
- Creating a new housing and development grant program for distribution of unallocated funds to affordable housing related projects
- Coordinating with the City of Damascus' city attorney on the upcoming election and the filing of challenges related to disincorporation
- Moving forward with bond issuance for the Oregon Convention Center Hotel
- Updating and drafting administrative public contracting rules that will come to Council
- Drafting and negotiating design agreement for Oregon Zoo polar bear exhibit
- Reviewing and revising hiring protocols relating to Veterans' Preference with Metro's Human Resources staff
- Working with Oregon Zoo staff to revise the uniform policy

- Public comment period for proposed Title V changes
- Oregon Convention Center marketing contract with Travel Portland

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

Councilor Collette spoke to the groundbreaking of Trolley Trail, the upcoming Intertwine Alliance Clackamas County Summit, and the Willamette Falls Board of Directors meeting. Councilor Stacey highlighted the recent Southwest Corridor Steering Committee and Vision Zero Executive Committee meetings. Councilor Dirksen discussed his recent trip to Washington D.C. with the Oregon Business Plan and TriMet staff. Councilor Dirksen spoke to meeting with the U.S. Department of Transportation to review how various grant applications from TriMet and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) apply within the new FAST Act. Councilor Craddick discussed the Intertwine Alliance's series of County Summits and highlighted the recent East Multnomah County Transportation Committee meeting. Additionally, Councilor Craddick spoke to the Region 1 ACT meeting and noted that she and President Hughes will be participating in the Levee Ready Columbia project. Councilor Harrington discussed the City of Forest Grove's Community Enhancement Program and updated Council on topics discussed at the recent Washington County Coordinating Committee (WCCC). Council President Hughes reminded Council that the first meeting of the Urban Growth Readiness Task Force will be taking place on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. ADJOURN**

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Giraud, Council Policy Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2016**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>1.0</b>	Handout	05/17/2016	Metro's Website 2015 Year in Review	051716cw-01
<b>3.0</b>	PowerPoint	05/17/2016	PowerPoint Presentation: Planning for Potential Parks and Nature Levy Renewal	051716cw-02