

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber,
<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> Webinar ID: 615 079 992 or
888-475-4499 (toll free)
<https://www.youtube.com/live/GJyN9K9rItk?si=Ima4SbXiNxta8n5t>

Council meeting

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

Present: 5 - Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 2 - Council President Lynn Peterson, and Councilor Duncan Hwang

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Councilor Lewis called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Public Communication

Councilor Lewis opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items.

Malcolm Ricks, Portland: Testified on behalf of My Brother's Keeper to ask Council to reconsider including them in the budget.

Sheila Harris, Portland: Reiterated Rick's testimony, urging Council to increase their budget for a contract with My Brother's Keeper.

Tony Jones, Portland: Also testified requesting Council to increase the WPES budget for a contract with My Brother's Keeper, detailing the ways in which this would fall in line with Metro's racial and economic equity goals.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Councilor Lewis moved on to the next agenda item.

Public comment may be submitted in writing. It will also be heard in person and by electronic communication (video conference or telephone). Written comments should be submitted electronically by emailing legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Written comments received by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting will be provided to the council prior to the meeting. Testimony on non-agenda items will be taken at the beginning of the meeting. Testimony on agenda items generally will take place during that item, after staff presents, but also may be taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Those wishing to testify orally are encouraged to sign up in advance by either: (a) contacting the legislative coordinator by phone at 503-813-7591 and providing your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify; or (b) registering by email by sending your name and the agenda item on which you wish to testify to legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Those wishing to testify in person should fill out a blue card found in the back of the Council Chamber.

Those requesting to comment virtually during the meeting can do so by joining the meeting using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615079992) or 888-475-4499 (toll free) and using the “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom or emailing the legislative coordinator at legislativecoordinator@oregonmetro.gov. Individuals will have three minutes to testify unless otherwise stated at the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Hwang

3.1 Consideration of the April 11, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [041124c Minutes](#)

3.2 Consideration of the April 25, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [042524c Minutes](#)

3.3 **Resolution No. 24-5399** For the Purpose of Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program and Certifying that the Portland Metropolitan Area is in Compliance with Federal Transportation Planning Requirements

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5399](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

[Staff Report](#)

4. Resolutions

4.1 **Resolution No. 24-5416** For the Purpose of Adopting the Metro Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5416](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Staff Report](#)

Councilor Lewis called on Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO, Metro, to answer questions from Council.

Kennedy explained that Oregon law requires Metro to readopt the investment policy annually, and gave a brief summary of the investment strategy that they use.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Lewis asked how the Zoo Bond measure funds will be invested, and Kennedy explained that those funds will be taken into account and balanced against their liquid funds so that the Zoo has plenty available for their capital projects as they need it.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Councilor Lewis moved on to the next agenda item.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Nolan, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Hwang

4.2 **Resolution No. 24-5317** For the Purpose of Approving 2023 Nature in Neighborhoods Community Stewardship and Restoration Community Grants

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5417](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)

Councilor Lewis called on Jon Blasher (he/him), Metro, and Community Members to present to Council.

Staff pulled up the Resolution No. 24-5317 For the Purpose of Approving 2023 Nature in Neighborhoods Community Stewardship and Restoration Community Grants PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters described Metro's longstanding grant program, which has supported fish and wildlife habitat creation and connected people with nature for nearly two decades. They introduced the latest round of Neighborhood Nature Grants, emphasizing the program's alignment with Metro's racial equity, diversity, and inclusion strategy. These grants aim to build partnerships, enhance water quality and habitat, and promote environmental equity. This year's review saw an increase in applications and funding requests, leading to the recommendation of nine projects. Highlighted projects include the Seven Waters Canoe Family's culturally focused habitat work, Friends of Trees' urban tree care training, and

Willamette Falls Trust's habitat restoration led by tribal members. The emphasis on youth mentorship, Indigenous leadership, and community engagement underscores the program's commitment to sustainable, inclusive environmental stewardship.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Lewis asked how the project grant cycle interacts with the capital grant cycle, and presenters explained that in the past the cycles have aligned with each other and it has been really hard on staff, so they are coming up with new strategies to stagger those for the next cycle.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Councilor Lewis moved on to the next agenda item.

A motion was made by Councilor Simpson, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Hwang

5. Ordinances (Second Reading and Vote)

Ordinance No. 24-1511 For the Purpose of Annexing to the Metro District Boundary Approximately 203.79 Acres Located in the Carver Area of Happy Valley North of Highway 224 and South of SE Eckert Ln

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1](#)
[Ordinance No. 24-1511](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

Councilor Lewis stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 24-1511 took place on Thursday, May 9th, 2024.

Councilor Lewis called Roger Alfred (he/him), Metro, to answer questions from Council.

There were none.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosenthal, seconded by Councilor Simpson, that this item be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 2 - Council President Peterson, and Councilor Hwang

6. Other Business

6.1 Council Discussion of FY 2024-25 Approved Budget

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Councilor Lewis introduced Andrew Scott (he/him), Deputy COO, Metro and Brian Kennedy (he/him), CFO, Metro, to facilitate the Council Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Approved Budget.

Staff pulled up the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Approved Budget PowerPoint to present to Council.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan requested clarification on the budget vote schedule.

Councilor Simpson asked about the feasibility of the requests of the testifiers, and Kennedy responded that this type of contract negotiation would not normally happen as a part of the budget process, explaining alternative processes.

Councilor Nolan suggested scheduling a discussion on

supporting BIPOC workforces and business owners, emphasizing the need for technical support and business advice. They also noted the importance of Metro's commitment to BIPOC communities and proposed future council discussions to explore expanding support programs, ensuring that BIPOC businesses are prepared for successful contracting opportunities.

Councilor Lewis added that they are interested in looking at the budget and reserves to bring more resources and opportunities of this kind.

Seeing no further discussion, Councilor Lewis moved on to the next agenda item.

6.1.1 Public hearing on the budget

Councilor Lewis opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on the Council Discussion of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Approved Budget.

Testimony from the first opportunity for public comment were reiterated for the record:

Malcolm Ricks, Portland: Testified on behalf of My Brother's Keeper to ask Council to reconsider including them in the budget.

Sheila Harris, Portland: Reiterated Rick's testimony, urging Council to increase their budget for a contract with My Brother's Keeper.

Tony Jones, Portland: Also testified requesting Council to increase the WPES budget for a contract with My Brother's Keeper, detailing the ways in which this would fall in line with Metro's racial and economic equity goals.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Councilor Lewis moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy COO Andrew Scott provided an update on the following events or items:

- None

8. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Simpson reported on the passing of the Water Safety Quality District project for levee system on Marine Drive.
- Councilor Gonzalez gave an overview of the JPACT meeting earlier that day.
- Councilor Rosenthal reported on the Natural Areas Oversight Committee meeting, with several new members, and gave an overview of what was discussed.
- Councilors thanked voters for the reelection of three Councilors, as well as the passing of the Zoo Bond.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilor Lewis adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant