

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, October 30, 2025

9:00 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615709992) or

253-205-0468 (toll free), www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdGtms5btQo

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

President Peterson spoke about federal funding cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Benefits and asked for informal Council support in directing Chief Operating Officer Marissa Madrigal to bring a proposal to Council for addressing food security needs.

Councilor Hwang expressed support and asked that culturally appropriate foods be made available to the community. The full Council supported this direction.

President Peterson excused herself from the meeting. Deputy Council President Simpson presided over the rest of the meeting, beginning with remarks to commemorate Native American Heritage Month.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

2. Consent Agenda

Present: 6 - Councilor Duncan Hwang, Councilor Mary Nolan, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Christine Lewis, and Councilor Ashton Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

- 2.1 **Resolution No. 25-5530** For the Purpose of Amending the Non-System License (No. N-028-25) Issued to Epson Portland, Inc. to Include Transport of Putrescible Waste to the Spokane Waste-To-Energy Facility for Disposal

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5530](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Attachment 1 - Draft Non-System License with Red-Line](#)

- 2.2 **Resolution No. 25-5518** For the Purpose of Authorizing the Chief Operation Officer to Issue a New Non-System License to Eaton Corporation for Transport and Disposal of Non-Recoverable Solid Waste, Including Putrescible Waste at the Spokane Regional Waste-to-Energy Facility Located in Spokane, Washington

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5518](#)
 [Exhibit A](#)
 [Exhibit B](#)
 [Staff Report](#)

- 2.3 **Resolution No. 25-5531** For the Purpose of Renewing Willamette Resources, Inc. & Republic Services of Clackamas and Washington Counties Joint Non-System License to Transport Commercial Food Waste and Yard Debris Mixed with Residential Food Waste to the Pacific Region Compost Facility Located In Benton County, OR

Attachments: [Resolution No. 25-5531](#)
 [Exhibit A](#)
 [Exhibit B](#)
 [Staff Report](#)

No discussion.

A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Lewis, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Presentations**

3.1 **Special Presentation from Tracy Hadden Loh, Brookings Metro Fellow**

COO Madrigal and Councilor Gonzalez opened the presentation with remarks about regionalism, growth and reflections on a recent conference.

Presenter Tracy Hadden Loh's remarks focused on ensuring that regional governments provide additive benefits to residents by coordinating more complex issues. She referred to the impacts to low-income communities that planning decisions can have, including environmental degradation and environmental health hazards and access to services and transportation. She stressed

the importance of growth alongside appreciation for the region's existing strengths.

COO Madrigal facilitated discussion with Councilors, followed by opening up each discussion topic to staff attending the presentation.

Councilor Gonzalez shared that he was inspired throughout the conference by other regions. He also noted that the greater Portland region has many strengths despite a sometimes-negative attitude among policymakers about their success.

Councilor Nolan elaborated on this view and noted that messages from inside the region often reinforce the hard times people are experiencing. They suggested a greater focus on what policies are effective and recognizing that the greater Portland region doesn't need to strive to be the best if it still serves the people well.

Hadden Loh highlighted the tension between long-range planning that aims to predict outcomes and the need to remain flexible over time.

Councilor Hwang raised the impacts of recent growth to certain communities, in the wake of planning policies that did not include intentional, inclusive elements, such as anti-displacement measures.

Director of Government Affairs Andy Shaw asked how planning can help rebuild social contracts during a divisive time. Loh suggested in-person engagement and convening round tables to build trust. Planning, Development and Research Director Catherine Ciarlo, added that visioning should build agreement of positive, not perfect, outcomes, that the planning process will benefit.

Councilor Lewis advocated for more focus and a more streamlined visioning process. She hoped the region would better foster arts and culture and asked how to successfully work across state lines. Loh doubted two states would work together to create shared priorities; she suggested utilizing trusted messengers to advocate in each state.

Councilor Hwang highlighted the difficulty for planning for the budget available and working toward the community's larger vision. Councilor Gonzalez spoke about the region's unique culture but the need to go beyond the status quo.

During discussion about the ideal vision for the region in 50 years, staff and Councilors prioritized quality of life, affordable housing prices, access to safe transportation, and clean air and water, and access to nature.

Metro Attorney Carrie MacLaren pointed to the desire for short-term success while working toward a long-range vision. Councilor Hwang hoped technology could facilitate a future in which residents wouldn't have to work multiple jobs to survive. Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Sebrina Owens-Wilson posed a question about changing current conditions to support a future vision. COO Madrigal emphasized the importance of policies that prevent K-shaped economic recoveries.

Loh then shared insight into other regions in the Midwest and American South that have had successful outcomes in working together, despite historic challenges, especially regarding racism.

Councilor Nolan spoke to the importance of education both in and out of school, and COO Madrigal added tourism to the discussion. Staff commented on the region's notoriety for food and drink, access to green space, and the craft and maker communities. Councilor Lewis added that for a mid-size city, Portland has a close-knit feel. Councilor Rosenthal remarked that leaders should

work toward a future region where people are not afraid to take chances.

4. Adjourn

Deputy Council President adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Anne Buzzini, Council Legislative Advisor

November 6, 2025