

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 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)**

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council President Hwang called the Metro Council Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

Excused: 1 - Council President Lynn Peterson

2. Public Communication

Deputy Council President Hwang opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items.

Cory McGraw and Desmond Hardison, Metro Regional Center:

McGraw and Hardison, colleagues at Guide on the Side, shared their perspective about the upcoming requests for proposals for Metro’s RFQu 4269. The testifiers expressed concern that larger firms will dominate over smaller ones, due to the former’s degree of familiarity with government systems. McGraw and Hardison spoke to their firsthand experiences as contractors and community members who have worked with the local homeless population. They requested that the Council remain aware any power imbalance between larger and smaller firms and asked that they fairly consider the qualifications of those smaller firms.

Deputy COO Holly Calhoun voiced appreciation for the testimony provided regarding inequalities in the selection process and stated that the Council could review the process to see if modifications can be made.

Deputy Council President Hwang requested clarification

about whether the testifiers have already been selected for the RFQu pool.

McGraw confirmed that they had.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how long the RFQu period lasts.

McGraw responded that it is a five-year period.

Seeing no further Public Comment, Deputy Council President Hwang moved on to the Consent Agenda.

3. Consent Agenda

Deputy Council President Hwang called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. It passed unanimously. Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy Council President Hwang moved on to the next agenda item.

3.1 Resolution No. 24-5429 For the Purpose of Appointing Members to the Tri-County Planning Body

Attachments: [Resolution No. 24-5429](#)
[Staff report](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

A motion was made by Councilor Lewis, seconded by Councilor Rosenthal, that this Resolution was adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Excused: 1 - Council President Peterson

4. Ordinances (First Reading and Public Hearing)

4.1 Ordinance No. 24-1517 For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19.120 and Repealing Metro Code Chapter 2.19.140 To Update Procedures For Metro-Administered Community Enhancement Committees and to Sunset the North Portland Rehabilitation and

Enhancement Committee

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 24-1517](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Staff Report](#)

Deputy Council President Hwang called on Noelle Dobson (she/her), Program Manager, Community Enhancement Grants, Metro, to present the ordinance to Council.

Presentation Summary:

Dobson spoke to the Council about community enhancement grant committees and stated that the Ordinance would 1) amend the current selection process for committee members and 2) repeal outdated language in the code. She explained that five out of seven grant committee members must be nominated by a neighborhood association. The Ordinance would remove the majority requirement and allow Metro staff to recruit nominees through a larger network of community organizations and businesses. Dobson shared that this approach could help fill ongoing committee vacancies and result in higher participation of BIPOC residents. The Ordinance would also remove outdated language from the code that references St. John's landfill, which permanently closed in 2017.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Lewis requested that Dobson elaborate on the history of the administration of the community enhancement grant programs.

Dobson explained that the city in which each transfer station

resides can choose to administer the grant program, or they can decline and transfer administrative responsibility to either Metro or community-based organizations. The City of Portland declined to administrate these programs.

Councilor Lewis surmised that filling committee seats is difficult because Metro and the City are sharing the work, even though Metro staff does not have direct communication with the city regarding nominations. She asked if Dobson agreed.

Dobson agreed with that perspective.

Deputy Council President Hwang asked the presenter to elaborate on how the proposed change would impact the jurisdiction of grant committees when new transfer facilities are established.

Dobson stated that the city would receive preference for administration, but that Metro and community organizations would continue to be the backup administrators for programs.

Deputy Council President Hwang wondered whether a more diverse set of transfer facilities, which are being discussed as part of the Recycling Modernization Act, would also be collecting fees as part of community enhancement grants.

Dobson replied that there is an opportunity to consider that approach and that her team is working with the appropriate staff to collaborate on the System Facilities Plan.

Councilor Gonzalez first remarked that he appreciated the hard work of Dobson and her colleagues regarding this matter. He then asked about the history of the code changes

regarding the community enhancement grants and what the feedback has been from community partners who are implementing those funds.

Dobson responded that there have not been many code changes since the Metro Central program began 30 years prior, with most changes impacting the fees collected. She also stated that there have not been conversations between Metro and the community partners regarding the proposed code changes.

Councilor Lewis clarified that the staff report has inaccurate language specifying that the majority of committee members must be part of their neighborhood association. Instead, the language should state that committee members must only be nominated by the neighborhood associations.

Councilor Lewis followed up with a question of whether it might be beneficial to reorganize how the grants are managed and distributed, with a possibility to remove the committee aspect.

Dobson answered that if the Councilors wish to pursue structural changes to the handling of community enhancement grants, there is staff expertise to inform how those changes could be made.

Councilor Rosenthal asked whether there has been discussion of updating the program goals and language in the code regarding the criteria for community partners seeking to qualify for grants.

Dobson replied that there has not been a larger discussion recently about amending the code to adjust the program goals. She clarified that local administrators can add

program goals to the initial list of priorities in the code.

Seeing no further discussion on the topic, Deputy Council President Hwang moved on to the next agenda item.

4.1.1 Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 24-1517

Deputy Council President Hwang opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on Ordinance No. 24-1517, For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Chapter 2.19.120 and Repealing Metro Code Chapter 2.19.140 To Update Procedures for Metro-Administered Community Enhancement Committees and to Sunset the North Portland Rehabilitation and Enhancement Committee.

Carol Chesarek, Metro Regional Center:

Chesarek spoke as a representative of the Forest Park Neighborhood Association. She testified that the association feels that Metro does not believe that the committees are diverse, despite an alleged lack of visits from Metro staff in recent years. The Association requests that they be notified directly of all recruitments for potential nominees, that nominees are chosen from across the grant area to ensure the community is well-represented, and that standards are added to handle proposed boundary changes.

Seeing no further public comment, Deputy Council President Hwang closed the public hearing.

5. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy COO Holly Calhoun provided an update on the following events or items:

- The Metro region is under an excessive heat warning, so Metro Central and South will be closed to public traffic.
- The General Manager of Venues, Steve Faulstick, retired at the end of August. The interim replacement is Craig Stroud, the Director of the OCC.
- Regarding the Expo Center: Community engagement activities, such as online surveys with the Japanese American, Vanport, and Indigenous communities, are wrapping up with the intention to utilize that feedback to establish cultural memorials. Staff is continuing to refine the four possible uses of the Expo Center as presented in June of 2023. The Expo Future Funding Taskforce is working to develop possible funding concepts for the Center. Rose City Philanthropy is studying regional philanthropic support for the project, with findings to be presented in the fall. Conversations with the IBRP continue to explore how the bridge development will impact the future of the Expo Center. Staff are working to deliver a vision plan to the Council on December 10th at the joint MERC meeting.
- The Zoo is offering briefings of the Oregon Zoo Campus Plan and the implementation sequencing ahead of the September 26th Council meeting to adopt the plan.
- Several affordable housing projects have been completed or are currently underway. These include the opening of Las Flores units in Oregon City and the opening of Plaza Los Amigos in Cornelius.

Councilor Gonzalez shared appreciation for the staff and the committees' work on developing the Expo Center, and Councilor Rosenthal echoed the same sentiment.

6. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Rosenthal articulated the importance and success of the Community Development Block Grant Programs operating throughout the region. He also provided information about two upcoming webinars to discuss the future funding of transportation in the region.
- Councilor Lewis shared several updates. She recently took a tour of Kellogg dam with Councilors Gonzalez and Simpson, as well as the IBR, the Oregon Agricultural Trust, and the Wilsonville Housing Tour. She informed Council that the Willamette Falls and Landings Area Coalition is working hard to establish a national heritage area. Councilor Lewis also shared that last week development began on a new affordable housing project, Vuela, in Wilsonville. Finally, she reported that the SHS Tri-County Planning Body meeting is continuing to work toward its objectives and the potential of the TCPB.
- Councilor Gonzalez expressed his appreciation for Councilor Lewis's leadership and regarding local housing and transportation projects. He related that he attended the Hillsboro Hops groundbreaking for a new stadium, as well as an event discussing the possibility of the NSTC research center being established in the metropolitan area and how communities of color could receive resources to participate in the tech industry. Lastly, Councilor Gonzalez gave a reminder about the upcoming TV

Highway cleanup.

- Councilor Simpson shared that he got married during the recess.
- Deputy Council President Hwang reported that TriMet was invited to submit an application to the Portland Clean Energy fund to support the 82nd Avenue transit project, as was the Rockwood CDC Food Waste Corridor project. He also met with the Japanese ambassador and consulate to discuss the future of the Expo Center.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Deputy Council President Hwang adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Cooley, Legislative Assistant