

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, May 4, 2023

10:30 AM

Gresham City Hall, Council Chambers 1333 NW Eastman Pkwy,
Gresham, OR 97030; <https://zoom.us/j/615079992>, or
877-853-5257 (toll free) (Webinar ID: 615079992)

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Council President Peterson stated that they will not discuss Resolution No. 23-5320, but plan to on May 11, 2023. She also thanked the city of Gresham for hosting them and asked Mayor Travis Stovall to speak.

Travis Stovall, Mayor of Gresham welcomed the Metro Council. He noted some of the partnerships between Metro and the City of Gresham.

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

2. Public Communication

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on a non-agenda items. There were no members of the public that wanted to testify.

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

3. Resolutions

- 3.1 **Resolution No. 23-5336**, For the Purpose of Proclaiming the Fifth of Every May as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in the Greater Portland Area

Presenter(s): Katie McDonald (she/her), Metro
Rosanne Shields

Attachments: [Resolution No. 23-5336](#)

A motion was made by Councilor Gonzalez, seconded by Councilor Nolan, that this Resolution was adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Council President Peterson, Councilor Lewis, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Nolan, Councilor Rosenthal, Councilor Hwang, and Councilor Simpson

Council President Peterson called on Katie McDonald (she/her), Metro and Rosanne Shields to present to Council.

McDonald shared information and data about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) epidemic, including the rates of violent crime experienced by Indigenous people. Shields discussed her experiences looking for missing people, helping those experiencing homelessness and her own experience being homeless. She stated that there needs to be more outreach.

Council Discussion:

President Peterson thanked Shields for sharing her stories. She mentioned that hearing lived experience is helpful.

Councilor Simpson thanked Shields for sharing. He suggested that the Council thinks about getting justice for people in addition to raising awareness. He agreed with Shields that they cannot expect people to get better when they are not healed.

Councilor Gonzales appreciated Shields for sharing and appreciated McDonald for her work.

President Peterson mentioned that the Councilors, who are interested, would appreciate visiting and hearing the stories of the people that Shields helps and works with.

Councilor Lewis also thanked Shields for being there and sharing. She commented on the need to connect their funding to the people that already provide services.

Councilor Rosenthal thanked Shields for sharing her story.

President Peterson commented that they also need to go further and consider the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) epidemic every day in their work.

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

4. Presentations

4.1 Oregon Zoo Budget Presentation

Presenter(s): Heidi Rahn (she/her), Metro
Julie Fitzgerald, Oregon Zoo Foundation

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson called on Heidi Rahn (she/her), Metro and Julie Fitzgerald, Oregon Zoo Foundation to present to Council on the Oregon Zoo Budget Presentation.

Staff pulled up the ***Oregon Zoo FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget Powerpoint*** to present to Council.

Rahn explained the budget overview for the Zoo and the 5-year forecast. Most of their revenue come from enterprise revenues which includes general admission and special events. For the next fiscal year, they are not projected to not cover their operating expenses by about \$1.2 million. She explained that the key Equity Metric is community access program and that they also have a zoo internship program. The budget modifications are to add 1.0 FTE for a Marine Life Keeper and 1.5 FTE for Marketing staff. Rahn mentioned several major capital projects and explained the investments in economy and environment.

Fitzgerald reviewed the goals of FY22 Oregon Zoo Foundation annual report and explained the FY22 Financials. Fitzgerald gave several updates on philanthropy, membership, and advocacy.

Council Discussion:

President Peterson thanked staff and the Oregon Zoo Foundation for their work during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Councilor Simpson commented on their recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and thanked them for their work.

Councilor Nolan thanked Rahn for her work.

Councilor Hwang commented on the community-based ticket allocation for the equity metrics. He asked about the considerations and the steps for ticket prices. He also asked how they are including equity and access in the decision-making process.

Rahn mentioned that they compare their ticket price to other zoos, aquariums, and other ticketed attractions in the region. She also mentioned that community partnership and changes in membership pricing was important.

Utpal Passi, Deputy director of the Oregon Zoo, mentioned that they are conscious of their pricing. Passi explained that they look at comparative zoo size, quality experience, and zoo membership. Passi mentioned that people can get discount tickets online and give out tickets to communities.

Councilor Lewis asked about the timeline to make big decisions on taking care of the facilities. She also asked when the accreditors will be back.

Rahn mentioned that they have been focused of getting caught up on maintenance. She mentioned some of the projects that staff are doing, but they do not have the capacity to invest in significant retrofits in the Zoo. Rahn noted that the accreditors want them to make some changes. They are currently working on their Campus Plan

and how to get funding.

Rahn noted that the accreditors will be back 2027, but they start looking at their work in 2025.

Councilor Rosenthal commented that he supports the Zoo and the Zoo Foundation.

Rahn mentioned that she visited about twenty zoos around the country. She also mentioned that parking is a constraint and that they will be looking at solutions.

Councilor Gonzales commented on their ability to get donations. He asked about their visions to improve performance.

Rahn explained that the ability to bring more funding partners is important to expanding the Zoo. She mentioned the work of the Zoo Foundation and staff to get more funding sources.

President Peterson asked if they will be able to start work or emergency plan with the resources they currently have.

Rahn mentioned that the Zoo has an emergency plan.

Passi mentioned that they are in the process of rebuilding and hiring.

President Peterson asked if it included partners in the city. Rahn noted that they are apart of the board of the Explore Washington Park that is working on an emergency plan. They also hired a public safety manager as well.

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

Presenter(s): Will Norris, Metro
Matthew Rotchford, Metro

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Council President Peterson called on Will Norris, Metro and Matthew Rotchford, Metro to present to Council on the Expo Center Budget Presentation.

Staff pulled up the *Portland Expo Center FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget Powerpoint* to present to Council.

Rotchford began the presentation by discussing several of the key themes of the budget. Norris gave an overview of the budget. He noted that there is no Metro General Fund support is requested for the budget. Sabrina Catholina (they/them), Metro gave information on the key equity metric and the work that has been done. Rotchford discussed several key equity metrics and their expected outcomes. He also mentioned several upcoming events. Rotchford explained that there are no FY 2024 budget modifications. He then discussed the investments in the target areas of economy, sustainability, and housing.

Council Discussion:

President Peterson asked Madrigal about the capital projects considering the futures project. She commented that she did not want to put money into something that may change. She also asked Madrigal how she expected Expo's programming to change over the next couple of years.

Madrigal explained that they need to make sure to protect the structure and the functioning of the building. For major capital projects, they would examine if they made sense for the facility's long-term future. She mentioned that until the marketing and feasibility study is done by the Expo Futures study project, they do not know what direction they should go in.

Madrigal mentioned that staff looking at the possibilities for different sporting events. She mentioned Councilor Simpson bring the Black rodeo and Sports Oregon. Madrigal noted that they can potentially do small sports equipment investments for different sports in the meantime.

Councilor Simpson thanked staff for getting 8-Second rodeo done. He also commented that he was relieved that there were no budget modifications

Rotchford mentioned that this is the first rodeo and that they will learn a lot.

Councilor Nolan asked how they will assess if people feel welcomed and safe in the next fiscal year. They also asked how the Council and MERC will be able to evaluate.

Rotchford mentioned that they put the word “welcome” in different languages. They also have talked about trainings and for the staff and their partners. He noted that there were different understandings of what it means to be welcomed or to feel safe amongst the line level staff.

Councilor Nolan asked what the number were.

Rotchford mentioned that there are at least 100 staff members to do the training, but they want to extend the training to their partners.

Councilor Nolan asked how they measure whether the guests get the benefit of the staff’s training.

Catholina mentioned that they have been thinking about how to tailor the training to the needs of Expo for training

staff and sub-contract workers. Catholina explained that they are still uncovering what information they need.

Rotchford mentioned that they can reach out the advanced ticket holders and ask them questions like if they felt welcomed.

Councilor Nolan asked what their total marketing and outreach budget was. They commented that they want them to ask for more money for outreach.

Rotchford noted that Expo's overall marketing budget was about \$55,000, which included advertising and outreach. He noted that their fund has been tight, and they want to make sure that they can meet all their goals.

Councilor Nolan mentioned that racial equity is a Council priority and that it is worth investing in.

Council President Peterson mentioned that she would want follow-up on what more they could do if they had more money.

Councilor Hwang asked how they know that outreach expenditures are successful at the end of the year. He noted that community partnerships and holding space for marginalized communities have \$5,000 line items. He suggested that they spend more money on meaningful engagement.

Rotchford mentioned that many of the items are subsidies or support for events that they often do not know. The fund allows staff to help the partners. For example, adding a bit more to food and beverage presentation or helping with signage.

Madrigal mentioned that they give discounts to community groups and asked Rotchford to clarify if those are included in the line items.

Rotchford stated that those are off the book. They do not necessarily track all of it because it results in negative listings.

Staff mentioned that they will look for a way to track and share that information.

Councilor Hwang commented that he wanted to see the broader impact to give them a better understanding of their investment and advancing their equity goals.

Councilor Gonzales commented that he appreciated the work that staff has done.

4.3 Public Comment on the FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget

Council President Peterson opened the meeting to members of the public wanting to testify on the FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget

No members of the public wanted to testify.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Nolan raised concerns about the lack of public comment. They mentioned that the Council has not succeeded in their goal to engage people.

5. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- The Metro-wide campaign for Mental Health Month

6. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- **Councilor Lewis** gave a funding update on the Carbon Reduction Program. She also gave updated on JPACT.
- **Councilor Rosenthal** gave an update on the MERC meeting and mentioned a staff report on Expo Futures.
- **Council President Peterson** gave an update on the regional tolling advisory committee (RTAC) and the delay in tolling.
- Carrie Maclaren, Metro Attorney, mentioned that the Department of Land Conservation and Development approved Metro's UGB exchange.
- **Council President Peterson** mentioned a wall with pictures of Gresham's mayors. She also mentioned the growth and diversity of the region and how the Metro Council has made progress.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council Meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jemeshia Taylor, Legislative Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 04, 2023

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1.0	Powerpoint	05/04/2023	Oregon Zoo - FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget Presentation	050423c-01
2.0	Powerpoint	05/04/2023	Portland Expo Center - FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget Presentation	050423c -02