

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2019

4:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council chamber

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Metro Council meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: 6 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Council President Lynn Peterson, and Councilor Christine Lewis

Excused: 1 - Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez

2. Safety Briefing

Council President Peterson called on Councilor Stacey to provide a safety briefing. Councilor Stacey provided a safety briefing for the meeting including information on the location of emergency exits, fire extinguishers and automated external defibrillators.

3. Public Communication

Sharon Nasset, City of Portland: Ms. Nasset, of Third Bridge Now, thanked Councilor Craddick for her participation in the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council. She discussed a joint letter from Metro and the City of Portland to the Regional Transportation Commission on the Interstate 5 bridge. Ms. Nasset stated the importance of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process, highlighting the responsibility of elected officials to go forward with values and projects the community has chosen.

4. Resolutions

4.1 Resolution No. 19-5038, For the Purpose of Approving the Construction Career Pathways Framework

Council President Peterson called on Ms. Raahi Reddy, Director of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department, and Ms. Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Metro staff, to provide a

brief presentation on the resolution. Ms. Reddy explained that the Construction Career Pathways Project came out of Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. She shared that the project specifically supported Goal A, to support regional partners to advance racial equity, and Goal E, to allocate resources to advance racial equity, outlined in the plan. Ms. Reddy noted that the construction work force market study in 2018 identified a need for regional approach to growing a diverse construction workforce and shared that Metro had convened a public owners work group consisting of 16 regional agencies in 2018. She explained that the work group incorporated multiple rounds of stakeholder feedback to develop the Construction Career Pathways Framework.

Ms. Owens-Wilson provided a high level summary of the framework, noting that the framework advanced three core strategies of creating demand, supply and accountability. She discussed the importance of setting clear goals and reviewed the framework's workforce diversity and project threshold goals. Ms. Owens-Wilson noted that the goals included total work hours to be completed by 20 percent apprentices, 14 percent women and 25 percent people of color. She discussed strategies for ensuring supply and accountability and described the engagement process with a wide range of stakeholders.

Council President Peterson made a brief statement conveying the importance of this work and thanked regional partners, stakeholders and staff for their work on this project.

Ms. Reddy called on Ms. AJ Banuelos, member of Laborers' International Union of North America Local 737 (LiUNA Local

737), Mr. Zach Culver, Business Manager for LiUNA Local 737, and Mr. Anthony Deloney, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Self Enhancement, Inc., to provide a brief statement on the resolution.

Ms. Banuelos shared her personal experience with entering the trades through a pre-apprenticeship program, noting her eagerness for health benefits and a livable wage. She discussed the challenges of day care expenses and highlighted ways she was supported through the process of entering the trades. Ms. Banuelos stated the importance of outreach to recruit women and people of color and discussed the societal benefits from the success of women and people of color.

Mr. Culver stated his support for the resolution and shared that LiUNA was committed to moving this effort forward and supporting workers in successful careers. He described how the Construction Career Pathways Framework outlined a path for public agencies to work with unions and contractors to increase demand of women and people of color in the workforce through clear diversity goals and investments in recruitment and retention.

Mr. Deloney discussed the importance of alternatives to college that led young people to successful careers, noting the opportunities in the construction industry. He explained that the ultimate goal was for young people to start the process of entering the trades, complete the process and thrive in a career.

Ms. Reddy called on Mr. Michael Burch, Community Relations and Outreach Representative for the Regional Council for Carpenters, Mr. James Faison, Owner of Faison Construction, and Ms. Vivian Satterfield, Director of

Strategic Partnerships at Verde and representing Getting There Together Coalition, to provide brief statements on the resolution.

Mr. Burch shared that he had been working for over a decade to help overcome the persistent institutional racism in the construction industry and stated the importance of the Construction Career Pathways Project. He explained that the regional approach in the framework was necessary in increasing the likelihood of women and people of color to have successful construction careers. Mr. Burch conveyed the need for meeting diversity goals through journey level representation and keeping community based organizations, pre-apprenticeship programs, contractors, labor unions and training programs working together in these efforts.

Mr. Faison stated his support for the resolution, explaining that the framework would support diversity and inclusion in public construction projects where women and people of color have been historically excluded. Ms. Satterfield stated that Verde had endorsed the framework and spoke on behalf of the Getting There Together Coalition to state support for the framework. She noted the importance of the Construction Career Pathways framework in Metro's regional investment strategies.

Ms. Reddy called on Mr. Raleigh Morrison, member of Carpenters Local 1503 at Turner Construction, to provide a brief statement on the resolution. Mr. Morrison shared his personal experience with entering the construction industry through Constructing Hope. He highlighted the benefits of a construction career for him and his family including the economic mobility it provided.

Council President Peterson called on Former Metro Council President Tom Hughes for testimony on the resolution. Mr. Hughes expressed his gratitude for the Metro's work on the Construction Career Pathways Project. He discussed the importance of increasing the supply of a diverse, trained construction workforce and the need for opportunity through journey level work.

Council President Peterson requested those wishing to testify to come forward.

Karis Lindvall, City of Portland: Ms. Lindvall, of Local 16 Sheet Metal Workers, stated her support of the resolution. She discussed the challenges that existed for women in the construction industry and shared her personal experience.

Aida Aranda, City of Portland: Ms. Aranda, Training Director Apprenticeship Program for LiUNA Local 737, testified in support of the resolution. She discussed the importance of retaining women in the construction workforce and encouraged women already in the workforce to remain.

Jodi G. Parker, City of Portland: Ms. Parker, of LiUNA Local 737, testified in support of the resolution and shared her personal experience working in the trades.

Gerald Anvil, City of Portland: Mr. Anvil, of the Carpenters Council, stated the importance of retention so that workers could thrive and succeed in the construction industry. He shared his personal experience including the ability to choose to retire after a 40 year career.

Vii Curbelo, City of Portland: Ms. Curbelo, a Constructing Hope Metro employee, expressed her gratitude for the work of the agency.

Council Discussion:

Councilors expressed their appreciation for the work of partners, stakeholders and staff in moving this work forward. Councilor Lewis highlighted the importance of historically underserved communities gaining access to the construction industry. Councilor Dirksen noted the lasting impact upon generations of economic mobility. Councilor Chase discussed systems of institutional racism and sexism, highlighting the framework's work to dismantle barriers for underserved communities for generations. Council President Peterson stated that Metro and the partnership agencies would support women and people of color in succeeding.

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

Aye: 6 - Councilor Chase, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Stacey, Council President Peterson, and Councilor Lewis

5. Chief Operating Officer Communication

There was none.

6. Councilor Communication

There was none.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 5:23 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on October 31, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Farrokhzadian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sara Farrokhzadian, Legislative and Engagement
Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2019

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
4.1	Letter	10/24/19	Letter to Metro Council from Congresswoman Susanne Bonamici	102419c-01
4.1	Powerpoint	10/24/19	Construction Career Pathways Project	102419c-02