

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, July 2, 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/watch?
v=Rz1AKJfgvpA&list=PLeB2faWWqJxGAOgOHIX1Wdw4NNSBfpY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rz1AKJfgvpA&list=PLeB2faWWqJxGAOgOHIX1Wdw4NNSBfpY)

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Council work session

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 or 888-475-4499 (toll free)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

Deputy Council President Hwang called the Work Session to order at 10:31 a.m.

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

Excused: 2 - Lynn Peterson, and Ashton Simpson

10:30 Work Session Topics:

10:30 Progress Update on Response to Audit of Parks and Nature Bond

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Deputy Council President Hwang introduced Jon Blasher (he/him), Parks and Nature Director, Metro, and Beth Cohen (she/her), Metro, to present on the topic.

Staff pulled up the Progress Update on Response to Audit of Parks and Nature Bond PowerPoint to present to Council.

Presenters outlined the progress on a parks and nature bond audit, emphasizing racial equity, climate resilience, and community engagement in planning investments to protect water, restore habitats, and provide nature access. They reported on progress, including reopening Blue Lake Park and enhancing ADA accessibility, and introduced a multi-dimensional concept of access focusing on proximity and experience, community empowerment, and economic vitality. They sought council's affirmation of this approach to ensure alignment with council values and policy direction.

Council Discussion

Councilor Nolan noted that they did not want the multidimensional access goals to detract from the overarching goal of racial equity. Presenters reassured them that this goal will not overshadow the racial equity priorities, but that it actually supports and builds on it.

Councilor Gonzalez expressed support and appreciation for presenters work on this project and the way they have been able to integrate all the values of access, equity, and conservation.

Councilor Rosenthal noted that the goals of habitat and access are in conflict with one another and emphasized the importance of access to low-income residents.

Councilor Lewis asked for elaboration on the visual storytelling of this project and how it will be accessible on the website. Presenters described the story maps they are building and offered to share the way they are planning to display this on the website.

Deputy President Hwang suggested adding time and efficiency to be included as a priority in this project, in addition to all the other goals. Presenters described the ways they can build in some increased pressure for efficiency, and also noted the long-term nature of this project.

Councilor Rosenthal asked how this project is going to be integrated into the large-scale community projects, and presenters explained how they can be incorporated moving ahead.

11:15 Chief Operating Officer Communication

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

He noted that Metro is preparing for a heat wave this weekend with a heat dome, and that Metro's heat illness prevention program may lead to disruptions or closures of transfer stations.

11:20 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Councilor Rosenthal reported on his attendance of two pride events last weekend and expressed support.
- Councilor Lewis reported on a Business Alliance event she attended along with Brian Kennedy and Val Galstad last week, where they discussed housing and supportive services.

11:25 Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Hart

Sam Hart, Legislative Assistant