

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes and Councilors Kathryn Harrington, Bob Stacey, Craig Dirksen, Shirley Craddick, and Carlotta Collette

Councilors Excused: Councilor Sam Chase

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at 2:04 p.m.

2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, invited two Metro staff members to make announcements before the Council:

- Mr. Tim Collier, Director of Finance and Regulatory Services, declared that Metro was issuing bonds for the Oregon Convention Center hotel project. He informed the Council that they had sold 52 million dollars in bonds and received a premium of approximately 9 million dollars.
- Mr. Don Robertson, Director of Parks and Nature, briefed the Council on a drowning incident that had occurred at Blue Lake Park. Mr. Robertson acknowledged the tragic nature of the accident. He highlighted that Blue Lake Park staff followed procedure and safety protocols, and responded professionally to a challenging situation.

Work Session Topics:**2:10 2030 Regional Waste Plan**

Mr. Paul Slyman, Director of Property and Environmental Services, and Ms. Marta McGuire, Metro staff, provided an update on the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Mr. Slyman highlighted that the plan would establish direction for system policies and goals, outline roles and responsibilities, and fulfill state requirements for a regional waste reduction

plan.

Ms. McGuire informed the Council that phase one of the five phase 2030 Regional Waste Plan development process, value development, had recently been completed. Ms. McGuire noted that every phase of the plan would be guided by an equity lens. She explained that the draft values had been shaped through existing guidelines, community engagement, an equity work group, and the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC) and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC). Ms. McGuire shared the draft values, which included: protect and restore environment and promote health for all; conserve natural resources; advance environmental literacy; foster economic well-being; ensure operational resilience and adaptability; and provide excellent service and equitable system access. Ms. McGuire also shared draft guiding principles that had been developed by the equity work group, which included community restoration, community partnerships, and community investments. Ms. McGuire sought Council input and support for the draft values and guiding principles.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Collette thanked staff for their public outreach. Councilor Craddick sought clarification of the “community investment” guiding principle. Ms. McGuire provided Metro’s community enhancement grant program as an example of community investment. Councilor Harrington stated that an MPAC member had asked her how the word “authentic” was defined in the guiding principle that outlined developing “authentic partnerships with communities”. Mr. Slyman explained that in the context of the guiding principle, “authentic” designated the development of mutually beneficial partnerships. Councilor Dirksen inquired if the equity work group had identified specific past harms to marginalized communities that could be rectified as part of the “community restoration” principle. Ms. McGuire identified past harms as the historical

proximity of solid waste facilities to marginalized communities, and the accompanying noise and odor impacts those communities had faced. Councilor Dirksen asked if community enhancement grants would henceforth be exclusively provided to historically marginalized communities. Ms. McGuire stated that there would not be exclusive provision of the grants to marginalized communities, but that there may be a need to prioritize and improve service to certain communities. Councilor Stacey commended Metro staff and Metro as an agency for being a learning organization. The Council provided a thumbs up to the draft values and guiding principles.

2:40 Disposal RFP Evaluation Criteria Weighting for Public Transfer Stations (Part 2)

Mr. Paul Slyman, Director of Property and Environmental Services, Will Elder, Metro staff, and Dan Pitzler, CH2M, discussed the disposal request for proposal (RFP) evaluation criteria for public transfer stations. Mr. Slyman noted that 500,000 tons of waste per year left transfer stations within the region. He also emphasized that Metro's current contracts for transport and disposal expired as of December 31, 2019, demanding that the agency seek requests for transport and disposal proposals.

Mr. Elder shared that Metro demanded progressive practices from the landfills that submitted proposals. He went on to inform the Council that there were four qualifying landfills which had or would soon have waste-to-energy (WtE) or waste to fuel capabilities, and at least 30 more years of landfill capacity. Those landfills were Roosevelt, Wasco County, Columbia Ridge, and Finley Buttes. Mr. Elder relayed landfill features that the respective owners had requested be shared with the Council:

- Columbia Ridge: serviced by rail and truck; produced 12.8 megawatts of energy; 10,000 acre buffer managed for agriculture and wildlife; home to collaborative technology projects, including 90 wind

- turbines; generated 3 million dollars in revenue annually; and had 148 years of remaining capacity.
- Finley Buttes: serviced by rail, truck and barge; produced electricity and heat; supported many organizations within their county; had 500 acres of space; and had 112 years of remaining capacity.
- Roosevelt: serviced by rail, truck, and potentially barge; generated 20 megawatts of electricity from gas and utilized a heat capture method to generate an additional 17 megawatts; had the most advanced gas to energy capacity in the Northwest; work on a renewable natural gas pipeline was underway; had 100 years of remaining capacity; and employed 200 machinists.
- Wasco County: serviced primarily by truck; would have gas to fuel in place before the year 2020; had a strong connection to the local community; preferred receiving waste from Metro South only; possessed an excellent safety record; and had 42 years of remaining capacity.

Mr. Pitzler reviewed the public benefits of the regional solid waste system, followed by the 2017 disposal RFP evaluation criteria. Mr. Pitzler highlighted the key attributes of the disposal criteria. He requested the councilors' feedback and their suggested weights on the following proposed criteria: environmental impacts; cost; operational approach, experience, and reduction of risk to Metro; and community and diversity. Mr. Pitzler provided the staff recommended weighting of the criteria.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Harrington had a question regarding the existing buffers surrounding the landfills. Council President Hughes asked if Wasco County Landfill had WtE capabilities or waste to fuel only. Mr. Elder informed President Hughes that Wasco County currently did not generate fuel from its waste. President Hughes questioned if removal of food

scraps from the waste stream would render methane production low enough that WtE production would not be economically viable for the landfills. Mr. Elder responded that the landfills would not experience levels of methane production low enough to impact the economic viability of WtE technology for many generations. Councilor Dirksen asked for clarification on the location of the Wasco County landfill. Councilor Harrington asked how, or if, the cost criterion would factor in job expansion or loss at the landfills as a result of partnership with Metro. Mr. Elder informed Councilor Harrington that jobs had thus far been a community and diversity consideration only, but noted her interest in seeing jobs also factored into the cost criterion. Councilor Harrington also asked if the landfills in question had community enhancement fees. Councilor Dirksen inquired about how the negative impacts to communities were considered in the criteria. Mr. Elder responded that landfills would be expected to provide letters of support from their communities as part of the draft RFP process. Councilors provided staff with their feedback and proposed weights for the criteria. The Council believed that the staff recommended allocation of 50 points to the cost criterion was excessive. Councilor Dirksen noted that in the event that two landfills were close in point allocations, he would favor a landfill that was forward-thinking and dedicated to advancing their WtE technology. Councilor Collette seconded Councilor Dirksen, and stated that she had a favorable opinion of companies that were innovative and advanced in energy recovery. Councilor Harrington requested the next steps of the process. Mr. Elder explained that the next step was to release the draft RFPs for public comment.

3:30 Councilor Communication

Councilor Collette provided an update on the Willamette Falls Legacy project. She informed the Council that the project had completed its first phase design, and would issue another RFP for the second phase of design refinement,

permitting, engineering, and construction. Chief Operating Officer Martha Bennett announced that due to the impending heat wave in Portland, the Oregon Zoo would make daily decisions about how late it would stay open to the public.

4:00 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Unterberg, Council Policy Assistant