

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2017

2:00 PM

VIP Suite B, Oregon Convention Center

Council retreat

2:00 Introduction, Background, and Purpose of the Day

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council retreat to order at 2:03 p.m. Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, introduced the retreat. She explained that she was requesting direction about how to spend the Council's time, energy, and resources in the coming year.

Present: 7 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Carlotta Collette, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Kathryn Harrington, and Councilor Bob Stacey

2:10 Background and Previous Council Direction

Ms. Bennett provided a brief background, highlighting Metro's responsibilities and commitments and emphasizing the importance of integrating the agency's different work programs. She explained that the Council had previously directed staff to work with TriMet as it considered a bond measure. She noted that since TriMet had announced it was no longer planning on a 2018 bond measure, it was important for the Council to consider how it would like to move forward.

**2:30 Update on Recent Public Engagement (Qualitative and Quantitative)
Staff Recommendations for Next Steps**

Ms. Bennett introduced Mr. Dave Metz, of FM3, to provide a quantitative overview of recent polling of likely voters across the Portland metropolitan area about key issues facing the region. He explained that the research followed up on prior surveys conducted for Metro over the last few years. He summarized the findings, highlighting the issues that voters were most concerned about, including affordable housing, transportation improvements, and parks, and how they responded to different questions about

bond measures, tax increases, and more. Ms. Bennett then introduced Ms. Becca Uherbelau, Metro staff, to provide a qualitative overview of outreach with communities of color. She informed the Council that such communities consistently named better housing and transportation options as their most urgent and significant needs.

Ms. Bennett then provided the staff recommendation for next steps. She recommended that the Metro Council consider three future measures for the next three years: housing in 2018, parks in 2019, and transportation in 2020. She noted that the recommendation did not mean that Metro would necessarily pursue the measures, only that the agency would begin researching the possibilities and convening with stakeholders to determine potential details. Ms. Bennett gave an overview of the proposed timeline and explained that it was developed in a way that would build on existing momentum and the public's needs. She explained that if Metro Council chose to pursue the recommendation, the budget retreat on November 14 would be used in part to evaluate how to best use the agency's resources to support the plan moving forward.

3:00 Break

3:10 Councilor Discussion

Councilors discussed various bond options. Councilor Dirksen clarified that taxpayers would not see an overall increase in their taxes with the potential parks bond. Councilor Harrington expressed support for housing, but emphasized that she did not believe Metro should develop or operate affordable housing projects. She also highlighted the importance of clear communication about potential bond measures and what they would accomplish. Councilors suggested engagement opportunities and key

stakeholders. Councilor Chase emphasized that it would be important to do extensive engagement ahead of the bonds in order to ensure that they met the public's needs. Councilor Harrington recommended working with Metro's Committee on Racial Equity (CORE.) Councilor Stacey recommended working with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) Finance Subcommittee as well. Councilor Craddick asked about long-term parks funding and the differences between construction excise taxes and bond measures. She also expressed interest in making sure that a parks bond would bring natural areas and parks access to disadvantaged communities. Councilor Dirksen expressed his support for the proposal, noting that affordable housing and improved transportation were closely linked. He explained that it would be important to communicate to the public and with stakeholders how all three areas impacted each other. Councilor Collette noted the significant amount of work and resources that would be needed to accomplish all three measures. Council President Hughes stated that it was important to highlight how all three elements were part of a single project to make the region more livable for its residents. Councilors discussed the political needs associated with the work and expressed their support for the work plan.

3:45 Council Direction to Staff & Next Steps

The Metro Council expressed its support for the staff recommendation. Ms. Bennett thanked the Council for their thoughtful discussion. She informed them that staff would return with draft work plans in the next few months. She explained that the work plans and upcoming budget would be drafted with Council's stated priorities as the central components.

4:00 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Hughes

adjourned the Metro Council retreat at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator