

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, April 5, 2018**

**2:00 PM**

**Metro Regional Center, Council chamber**

**Council meeting**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

**2. Public Communication**

There was none.

**3. Consent Agenda****Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Stacey, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Council President Hughes, Councilor Chase, Councilor Dominguez, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Dirksen, Councilor Harrington, and Councilor Stacey

3.1 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for March 29, 2018

**4. Ordinances (First Reading and Public Hearing)**

4.1 Ordinance No. 18-1419, For the Purpose of Amending Metro Code Title 10 to Update the Parks, Cemeteries and Natural Areas Rules and Regulations

Council President Hughes called on Mr. Dan Moeller and Ms. Suzanne Piluso, Metro staff, to present Ordinance No. 18-1419. Mr. Moeller explained that the ordinance proposed changes to Metro's Title 10 rules that regulated the recreational uses of Metro's parks and natural areas. Mr. Moeller noted that the rules were an important tool that helped the agency operate safe, welcoming places that were consistent with its mission to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and connect people to nature close to home.

Mr. Moeller explained that the goals of the revision were to protect wildlife and water quality, support the safety and well-being of visitors, reflect current conditions and management needs, and increase clarity and transparency. He informed the council that the revisions were developed with significant stakeholder input from a variety of groups, including an advisory group, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, enforcement agencies, community partners, and the Natural Areas Bond Oversight Committee.

Ms. Piluso provided an overview of the process and the proposed changes. She stated that the proposed revisions included a number of housekeeping edits as well as several modest adjustments to the current rules. She explained that the housekeeping edits were meant to clean up the code, remove antiquated provisions, eliminate duplications, and/or increase clarity. Ms. Piluso then shared the more substantive changes: allow pets on regional trails and some boat ramps, hunting if necessary for conservation, prohibit smoking, delegate authority to set fees to chief operating officer or designee, prohibit drone use, limit exclusions to no more than one year, and prohibit improper exposure and sexual activity. She provided background on each of the changes and why they were recommended.

#### *Council Discussion*

Councilor Craddick asked about rules regarding smoking on regional trails. Councilors discussed trail alignments, how to determine the best routes to meet with Metro's goals, and past policies related to dogs in parks and natural areas. Councilor Chase expressed appreciation for the public

testimony and the updates to the rules. He spoke to the importance of balancing preserving wildlife and creating public access. Councilor Dominguez emphasized the need to protect vulnerable wildlife habitats. Councilors asked how the code would be communicated to the public on trails or in the park system and how it would be enforced. Councilor Harrington thanked staff for their work and the advisory groups for their valuable feedback.

#### 4.1.1 Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 18-1419

Council President Hughes opened up a public hearing on Ordinance No. 18-1419 and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak.

Susan Barthel, City of Portland: Ms. Barthel, of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, provided testimony asking the Metro Council to prohibit dogs on all parts of the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. She highlighted studies that reviewed the negative impacts dogs have on wildlife and noted that the local habitat was vulnerable and warranted protection.

Troy Clark, City of Portland: Mr. Clark, of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, testified to request that the Metro Council amend the policy that allowed dogs on regional trails through Metro properties, in order to prohibit dogs on the regional trail in the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. He spoke to the impacts of dogs on natural areas and the importance of preserving wildlife. (Mr. Clark also provided written testimony; please see the April 5 meeting packet.)

James Thayer, City of Portland: Mr. Thayer, of the Oregon Recreational Trail Advisory Council, testified in support of

sufficient access for pets in Metro's natural areas and parks. He proposed that Metro include more trails where leashed dogs were allowed and noted that one local study showed strong support for allowing dogs on trails.

Ted Labbe, City of Portland: Mr. Labbe, Program and Policy Director for the Urban Greenspaces Institute, spoke in support of the Title 10 updates. He spoke about the significant public engagement done during the development of the updates and explained that he felt the new rules struck an important balance between the needs for resource protection and the needs for public access.

Council President Hughes gaveled out of the public hearing. He noted that second read, Council consideration, and vote on Ordinance No. 18-1419 would take place on Thursday, April 12.

**5. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Martha Bennett provided an update on the following events or items: Procurement Services and the Governor's Marketplace conference, focused on informing equitable contracting practices, and checkerspot butterfly recovery at the Oregon Zoo.

**6. Councilor Communication**

Councilor Harrington provided an update on the community placemaking grants.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 3:11 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on April 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator