

# **Metro**

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**Metro**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, April 12, 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 2:03 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**

Olivia Louise Alsept Ellis, City of Portland: Ms. Ellis testified in favor of the Participatory Budgeting Forum. She thanked the Metro Council for awarding funds needed to help develop the free educational forum. She invited the Metro Council to attend the forum at the Rosewood Initiative, noting that it focused on activating grassroots potential to define budgetary priorities and shape local government.

**3. Presentations****3.1 Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee Annual Report**

Council President Hughes called on Ms. Ruth Shelly, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair, and Ms. Susan Gibson-Hartnett, Vice Chair, to present the committee's 2017 annual report. Ms. Shelley summarized that bond funds continued to be spent wisely, bond projects were advanced on schedule and within budget, and overall the bond program was on track to deliver on voter expectations. Ms. Shelly explained that the bond program was in its final stretch and as a result there had been a shift in the committee's activities and perspective. She provided an overview of the committee's work and lessons from the past year, including:

- The construction management and general contracture structure had served the project well.
- The zoo's commitment to COBID firms exceeded expectations with 29.5% utilization.
- The new draft Integration Conservation Action Plan

(ICAP) was helping make decisions through a lens focused on animal welfare and conservation.

Ms. Shelly highlighted how the bond program projects better served animals and the public. She also provided recommendations for the future, including continuing to develop the zoo bond program in alignment with the ICAP. Ms. Shelly thanked Oregon Zoo staff, the Oregon Zoo Foundation, and her fellow committee members for all their work as the program moved into its final stage.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Stacey expressed his gratitude for the committee's work, noting that it was critical in maintaining confidence in the bond investment process. Councilor Harrington also thanked the committee. She shared her interest in having the committee review the zoo's master plan through an earthquake preparedness lens, highlighting how their expertise provided a great resource. Councilor Dominguez recognized the committee for their workforce diversity accomplishments. Councilor Craddick noted that the committee was critical to Metro's mission. She welcomed Ms. Gibson-Hartnett as the incoming chair and thanked Ms. Shelly for all of her leadership as the committee's chair.

3.2 Oregon Zoo's Polar Passage, Primate Forest, and Rhino Habitat Design and Construction Plans

Council President Hughes called on Dr. Don Moore, Ms. Heidi Rahn, and Mr. Grant Spickelmier, Oregon Zoo staff, to provide a presentation. Dr. Moore introduced the presentation, noting that the bond program was entering its final phase of construction funded by the public bond passed in 2008. He noted that five of the eight major projects promised in the bond had been completed, with the final three now entering construction. He explained how the important improvements would benefit the welfare of the zoo's animals, as well as the zoo's conservation and

research efforts. Mr. Spickelmier provided an overview of the new Primate Forest, Polar Passage, and Rhino Habitat exhibits and explained how they would inform, engage, and inspire zoo visitors. Dr. Moore shared the next steps of the process, noting that the project was slated to break ground in the summer and be under construction for a two-year period.

*Council Discussion*

Councilors thanked staff for the report. Councilor Stacey asked about wild polar bear populations in Canada and how climate change was affecting them. Councilor Dominguez asked about the zoo's research work. Council President Hughes asked about the impacts, if any, the upcoming construction would have on events at the zoo such as the summer concerts.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

**A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Harrington, 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

- 4.1 Resolution No. 18-4880, For the Purpose of Confirming the Appointment of Members to the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee
- 4.2 Resolution No. 18-4882, For the Purpose of Authorizing a Technical Assistance Program Component to Support the 2040 Planning and Development Grant
- 4.3 Consideration of the Council Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2018

**5. Resolutions**

- 5.1 Metro Chief Operating Officer Acting as Budget Officer Presents the Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget and Budget Message to the Metro Council, Acting as the Budget Committee

Council President Hughes called on Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, in her capacity as Metro's Budget Officer, to present the proposed budget to the Metro Council, sitting as the Metro Budget Committee. He noted that she would be joined by Metro Auditor Brian Evans and Metro Finance and Regulatory Services Director Tim Collier.

Ms. Bennett introduced the budget process and outlined next steps. She explained that the budget needed to be strategically aligned with the Council's objectives and priorities. Ms. Bennett shared Metro's budget message, noting that it focused on: continuing to deliver high quality public services; advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; tackling financial headwinds; and investing in agency infrastructure. Ms. Bennett provided an overview of how the proposed budget was developed using decision-making tools such as the six desired regional outcomes, the Metro Compass, and guidance from Council work sessions and retreats. She then gave a high-level review of the budget's deliverables.

Mr. Collier provided an overview of the numbers within the budget. He explained that the projected budget was approximately \$661 million. He discussed important impacts on the budget, including: an increase in property taxes, decreasing bond expenditures, an increase in 31.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, economic and financial trends, venues operations, and transient lodging tax.

Metro Auditor Brian Evans explained that the Office of the Auditor's budget was presented separately, as outlined in Metro Code to preserve the office's independence and objectivity. He discussed accountability, transparency, and making recommendations for improvement. Mr. Evans informed the Council of FY 2017-18 accomplishments. He provided the Council with the proposed budget breakdown and a comparison to budgets from previous years.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Craddick asked about staffing in the Office of the Auditor. Councilor Dirksen thanked staff for the proposed budget, noting that it allowed the agency to address the strategic goals the Council had identified. He asked about the new FTE positions.

- 5.1.1 Resolution No. 18-4873, For the Purpose of Approving the FY 2018-19 Budget, Setting Property Tax Levies and Transmitting the Approved Budget to the Multnomah County Tax Supervising and Conservations Commission
- 5.1.2 Public Hearing on Resolution No. 18-4873

Council President Hughes opened up a public hearing on Resolution No. 18-4873 and requested that those wishing to testify come forward to speak. Seeing none, Council President Hughes gaveled out of the public hearing. He noted that the Metro Council would hold a work session discussion of the budget on Tuesday, April 17. He added that an additional public hearing on Resolution No. 18-4873 would be held on May 3, at which time the Council would consider approving the FY 2018-19 budget and sending it to the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission for review.

**6. Ordinances (Second Reading)**

- 6.1 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 stated that the first reading and public hearing for Ordinance No. 18-1419 took place on Thursday, April 5. He informed the Metro Council that Mr. Dan Moeller, Metro staff, was available for questions.

*Council Discussion*

Councilor Craddick commended staff for their work and thanked them for working hard to find the right balance.

Councilor Harrington also thanked staff, noting that their clarifications throughout the process were very helpful.

**A motion was made by Councilor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Stacey, that this item be approved. 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

**7. Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Martha Bennett announced that a new elephant had moved to the Oregon Zoo. She also noted that Wizard World Comic Con would be taking place at the Oregon Convention Center April 13 - 15.

**8. Councilor Communication**

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), the Portland Metro Area Value Pricing Advisory Committee, Curtis Tigard's 109th birthday celebration, the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, and the Main Streets on Halsey project.

**9. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 4:09 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on April 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator

