

# **Metro**

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## **Minutes**

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

**2:00 PM**

**Madison Room, Portland'5, 1111 SW Broadway**

**Council work session**

**2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call**

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session to order at: 2:08 p.m.

**Present:** 4 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Betty Dominguez, Councilor Shirley Craddick, and Councilor Bob Stacey

**Excused:** 3 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Craig Dirksen, and Councilor Kathryn Harrington

**2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication**

Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro Chief Operating Officer, explained the three documents related to the housing bond that were handed out to Council. She announced staff had released the first draft of the potential housing bond draft framework. She complimented staff on the amount of work that had gone into the draft framework. She noted staff had presented the draft framework to the Technical Table, and would be presenting to the Stakeholder Table the following week. She mentioned an email sent to Council from Mr. Dan Moeller, Conservation Program Director, regarding the development adjacent to Scouters Mountain which caused the access road to be closed. She explained the cleaning and reparation happening around the Metro Regional Center.

**Work Session Topics:****2:10 Portland'5 Centers for the Arts Stakeholder Presentation**

Council President Hughes introduced Mr. Benjamin Rowe, Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Ms. Nike Greene, Portland'5 Education and Community Engagement Coordinator, to present on Portland'5 Centers for the Arts.

Mr. Rowe announced the Portland'5 Centers for the Arts (P'5) had a new mission statement, which stated, "We change the world through the Arts." He reminded Council that the City of Portland owned the facilities and Metro operated the program via a management contract. He noted the great relationship he had with the City Staff, particularly with Ms. Susan Harnett, Spectator Facilities and development manager. He explained the purpose of the presentation was to provide baseline foundational knowledge and understanding of some of the dynamics of P'5 operations. He stated the following four story lines that would be discussed:

- Excellence in venue management
- Cultural impact
- Economic impact

- Financial dynamics

Mr. Rowe described excellence in venue management by recognizing Ms. Robyn Williams, Executive Director at Portland's Centers for the Arts, and her achievements.

Ms. Greene explained P's ability to be a part of the regions cultural fabric, and having the tools and mechanisms to address social justice issues and cultural celebrations to bring the community together. She noted the educational program, where her team was able to impact systems by providing extended access to families. She explained that the program would gift tickets to families who were then able create shared experiences and memories. She described the expansion happening, using the Hands Up project as an example, where families and police would build relations. She noted certain challenges with expanding to all communities, such as transportation. She expressed the programs were focusing toward serving title 1 schools, section 8 households and cultural specific organizations.

Mr. Rowe emphasized the collaborations with the city, and how the programs talked about were manifesting the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan at Metro. He noted that when referencing Portland's Centers for the Arts, it included three facilities and five theatres. He stated that the facilities had been a part of Portland's cultural fabric for decades. He listed the following resident companies:

- Oregon Symphony
- Portland Opera
- Oregon Ballet Theatre
- Oregon Children's Theatre
- Portland Youth Philharmonic

He mentioned how the companies could not operate without the P's accommodations. He noted the companies were subsidized to about \$2.3 million yearly. He stated that on average, approximately 88% of the resident companies expenses were covered by P's. He mentions P's had \$105 million regional economic impact, explaining that for every dollar spent at P's, six dollars go to the economy and over a thousand jobs per year. He stated that capital projects were high, but notes the multiplier factor and opportunity for investment.

He concluded the presentation by describing the P's financial dynamics. He presented a graph which forecasted operating expenditures outpacing revenue growth. He explained P's received roughly \$2.9 million yearly from the City's general fund and the transit lodging tax, but that revenue was insufficient to fund both the capital and subsidies. He stated the average annual capital need was around \$3 million a year, meaning the

capital funding was insufficient to address the needs of the aging facilities. He announced that P'5 had about 12 million in capital reserves and the five year capital plan was to spend that reserve down. He noted that the P'5 operations post positive net annual cash flow. He expressed the presentation was more of an information sharing opportunity and that the City staff and Metro staff agreed to meet four times a year to discuss the financial dynamics and the capital plan.

*Council Communication:*

Councilor Craddick asked for further explanation in how Ms. Greene and her team approached the different counties. Council President Hughes asked about the P'5 relationship with other art organizations outside the central areas. Councilor Stacey expressed concern with of the implications Metro had with the city and with the future funding, specifically with the Keller Auditorium. He explained the worrisome over managing the facilities in the future through their stages of aging and the variability, noting he did not want the blame to fall on Metro. Ms. Williams and Ms. Harnett explained the City's and P'5 work on exploring three phases, ensuring studies and building assessments were being done on systemic vulnerability. Council recommended a joint meeting between City Council, City Commission and Metro Council when P'5 had a presentation with the three scenarios.

**3:00 Councilor Communication**

There was none.

**3:10 Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Seid, Council Policy Assistant