

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

2:00 PM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council work session call to order at: 2:05 p.m.

Present: 6 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Betty Dominguez, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, and Councilor Bob Stacey

Excused: 1 - Councilor Kathryn Harrington

2:05 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Martha Bennett introduced the new Deputy Chief Operating Officer Andrew Scott. Mr. Scott expressed his excitement of being a part of the Metro team.

2:10 Work Session Topics:**Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature**

President Hughes introduced Mr. Jon Blasher, Ms. Heather Nelson Kent, and Mr. Andy Shaw to discuss Parks and Nature investment strategy. Mr. Andy Shaw, reflected on Metro's accomplishments involving Parks and Nature. He explained how the accomplishments had aligned with Metro's vision.

Mr. Shaw introduced Ms. Kent. She explained how over two decades Metro have acquired more than 14,000 acres of natural areas, preserved key habitat areas and protected water supply. Ms. Kent acknowledged the 1995 Parks and Nature Bond. She shared that the Bond was used to focus on regional land acquisition of natural areas and trail corridors and secured more than 8,000 acres. She also mentioned the investments that provided people access through capital investments with the 2006 Bond. Ms. Kent shared how the Council listened to community input and created the Nature in Neighborhood capital grant program.

Ms. Kent referred to the following items in land acquisition and connecting people to nature:

- Quamash Prairie Natural Area
- Chehalem Ridge Natural Area
- Corral Creek Natural Area
- Graham Oaks Natural Area
- Khunamokwst Park
- Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center Green Alley
- Nadaka Nature Park

Ms. Kent introduced Mr. Blesher to convey why Parks and Nature involvement was needed. Mr. Blesher discussed the responses that were from several communities. He emphasized the need to protect nature and species. Mr. Blesher expressed how population growth applied pressure on the need for parks and nature. He referred to population hot spots. Also, he noted that staff had recognized that communities are changing. Mr. Blesher expressed the need to focus on flooding concerns and securing nature from private entities.

Mr. Blasher, shared the timeline that has been going on since December 2017 for the Parks and Nature bond.

Mr. Blasher highlighted the following items in the funding framework:

- Parks and Nature mission
- Racial equity
- Council direction
- Past success and lessons learned

Ms. Kent announced that a stakeholder application had been launched. Also she announced that the stakeholder

table will be during the summer and there would be other forms of engagement opportunities.

Council Discussion

Councilor Chase shared his thoughts on park access, trails and helping people connect with nature. Councilor Stacey expressed the need to invest in parks and nature without raising constituents' taxes. He recommended for staff to recognize coverage of a park, focus of the need for a park in a community and figure out the priority of having parks. Councilor Craddick suggested that staff figure out what urban areas don't have green spaces, and adding green spaces by bike routes. Councilor Dirksen complimented the work that had been done. Also, he shared his concerns about the timing of the Bond measure since Transportation Bond was a current discussion. Councilor Dominguez discussed having low-income constituents included in the equity component and she was concerned about voter fatigue. President Hughes shared his thoughts and comments.

3:40 Metro Attorney Communication

Metro Attorney Alison Kean provided an overview of the projects her office was working on. She informed the Metro Council that the Metro attorneys were working on the following projects: pay roll, land use, Basalt Creek dispute, planning, parks and nature, southwest corridor, Solid waste, and Oregon Zoo.

4:00 Councilor Communication

Councilor Dirksen discussed the last value pricing meeting that happened on June 25th. Councilor Stacey reflected on 2018 Regional Transportation Plan grant conversations.

Councilor Dominguez asked a clarifying question about the future of tolls.

4:05 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Tom Hughes adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



ShaToyia Bentley, Council Policy Assistant

EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(D), TO CONDUCT DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO CARRY ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS.