

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

1:00 PM

Oregon Convention Center, Rooms D133 and D134

Council retreat

Retreat Topics:**1:00 Introduction, Background, and Goals for the Day**

Council President Hughes called the Metro Council retreat to order at 1:01 p.m.

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer, introduced the retreat, noting that Council President-Elect Peterson and Councilors-Elect Lewis and Gonzalez were present. She explained that the retreat was part of the annual budget process and that she was requesting direction on major policy and programmatic decisions in advance of developing the next year's budget. Ms. Bennett reviewed the agenda and noted that Council would set new priorities in early 2019.

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

1:10 Budget Calendar Review

Ms. Bennett introduced Mr. Tim Collier, Metro's Finance and Regulatory Services Director, to provide an overview of the budget calendar. Mr. Collier reviewed the draft budget calendar and highlighted when Council would provide direction and take action. He explained that a Council budget retreat would be held in February 2019 once the base budgets had been developed from departments. Mr. Collier discussed the review and approval schedule for the budget and also noted that the adopted budget would be amended multiple times throughout the year.

Council Discussion:

Councilor Stacey asked about legal time constraints for

setting and adopting the budget. Mr. Collier explained that the budget needed to be adopted by June 30, 2019 because of the tax levy.

1:20 Financial Conditions by Major Funds

Ms. Bennett invited Mr. Collier to provide an overview of the financial conditions of the major funds at Metro. Mr. Collier reviewed each of the following funds: general, parks levy, visitor venues, solid waste and Oregon Zoo. He discussed revenues and programs of each fund and shared upcoming financial headwinds including significant Public Employees Retirement Systems (PERS) rate increases, eventual economic recession, increases to staffing cost as a result of the housing bond and the impact of bad weather on zoo revenues. Mr. Collier noted positive financial trends including the impacts of a strong economy to all of the funds, a stable income base in the general fund, a strong events business in the visitor venues fund and healthy reserves in the solid waste fund.

Ms. Bennett reviewed the basic framework for building base budgets, explaining she would ask departments to think about their programming as a whole and forecast five year life cycle costs for requests.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed the policies on allocating fund balances and the financial reserves policy across funds. Councilors asked how departments funded diversity, equity and inclusion programming and planning. Ms. Bennett explained that each department funded its own equity related work and would be asked to narrate key equity action plans.

2:20 Break**2:30 Council Initiatives Discussion & Direction**

Ms. Bennett stated that given these financial conditions, she wanted to ensure that Metro Council's initiatives aligned with the work program and spending plan for the next 18 months. She proposed a draft work plan and asked the Council to update and confirm the initiatives as needed. Ms. Bennett highlighted priorities that would require a substantial body of work as they relied on significant technical, political and engagement work. She explained that Council would make refinements to the work plan in January 2019.

Council Discussion:

Councilors discussed the major policy initiatives and agreed on the priorities listed. Councilor Craddick highlighted the need for a long term vision for parks and nature. Councilor Dirksen noted that further work was needed on future employment lands as part of the 2040 growth concept. Councilors discussed the growth concept refresh and Metro's role in significant projects in the region that advanced the growth concept. Councilor Stacey stated his support for the draft work plan and pointed to the opportunity for discussion on mid-cycle urban growth boundary management. Councilor Chase added that work with the passage of the housing bond and the upcoming urban growth management decision, there was a need for continued work in advancing affordable housing strategies. Council President Hughes highlighted the importance of the listed priorities in regional economic development strategy and expressed his support for this draft work plan.

4:00 Next Steps & Debrief

Ms. Bennett thanked Council for their feedback and emphasized that further refinement of the priorities would take place in when the new Council convened in January 2019.

4:15 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council retreat at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Farrokhzadian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sara Farrokhzadian, Legislative and Engagement
Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 27, 2018

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
2.0	Handout	11/27/18	Draft Council Budget Review Calendar	112718cr-01
3.0	Handout	11/27/18	Condition of Major Funds	112718cr-02
3.0	Report	11/27/18	Budget in Brief FY 2018-19	112718cr-03
3.0	Handout	4/1/18	Chief Operating Officer's Budget Message	112718cr-04
4.0	Handout	11/27/18	Draft Council Initiatives	112718cr-05