

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

2:00 PM

REVISED 3/14

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Lynn Peterson called the Metro Council work session call to order at: 2:04 p.m.

Present: 7 - Councilor Sam Chase, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen, Councilor Bob Stacey, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Christine Lewis, and Lynn Peterson

2:05 Safety Briefing**Work Session Topics:**

2:10 Regional Investment Strategy: Parks and Nature: Program Options

Attachments: [Work Session Worksheet](#)

[PowerPoint: Parks & Nature: Potential Bond Renewal](#)

Council President Peterson introduced Mr. Jon Blasher, Metro's Parks and Nature Program Director. Mr. Blasher reviewed key points from the previous Council discussion and stated the importance of the program's goal to advance racial equity. Mr. Blasher explained the detrimental impacts of climate change on our existing natural areas and Metro's role in protecting these green spaces. He noted that staff will bring forth a final draft of the program legislation for Council's approval in mid-May.

Mr. Blasher addressed a public engagement period that would be initiated in April to gain community feedback. He provided a brief overview of potential bond renewal program investments, including urban transformation, trail acquisition and development, Metro's capital projects, local park projects, the Nature in Neighborhood grants, and land acquisition/restoration.

Mr. Blasher announced the three categories by which performance will be measured within these investment as connecting people to nature, proximity, and visitor amenities. He further recommended keeping local share priorities as simple as possible and emphasized holding partners accountable as these projects emerge.

Mr. Blasher described two potential concepts for the urban transformation investments and mentioned that the term “urban transformation” may need to be changed as the title is unclear in how it serves Metro’s parks and nature initiatives.

Council Discussion

Councilor Gonzalez requested for information regarding which projects and maps would be presented in the public engagement meetings.

Councilor Stacey noted feedback he had received from the public in viewing the urban transportation grant as a “slush fund” and addressed this as misinformation. He also provided a few examples of successful parks and nature programs such as the Willamette Falls Project in response.

Councilor Dirksen inquired if projects such as Willamette Falls and Albina Vision would better fit under capital projects rather than urban transformation. Councilor Craddick suggested for a new program title for “urban transformation” that may combine the ideology behind the existing urban transformation priority and the Nature in Neighborhoods grants.

Councilor Chase stated his appreciation for the community’s feedback regarding the phrase “urban transformation” and its implications. He further asked for clarification of the intention of the urban transformation program and how that could be portrayed to the public. Councilor Chase suggested the title “Nature in Cities” in replacement of urban transformation.

Councilor Gonzalez raised concerns that the intention of urban transformation may not align with the idea behind the

Nature in Neighborhood grants, primarily due to the difference in scale of the two programs. He further stated the urban transformation investments should serve as a catalyst for future projects to create a regional impact. Council President Peterson suggested the title “Green Communities Catalyst Program”.

Council President Peterson inquired how Metro could provide clarity to the public of the difference between the Nature in Neighborhoods grants and the urban transformation program. Ms. Martha Bennett, Metro’s Chief Operating Officer, suggested creating a hybrid selection system for the urban transformation projects with its own grant criteria.

Council President Peterson cautioned moving the Willamette Falls Project into the capital project category as it may lead to difficulties for Metro to get the goals of the urban transformation program across to the public. She further suggested leaving Willamette Falls in urban transformation until phase two of the project is completed, and then moving it to the capital projects for the phases following.

Councilor Chase suggested including more active vocabulary in the urban transformation criteria.

Council President Peterson provided an update on the Rose Quarter Project and a draft letter that will be sent on behalf of Council in April.

3:10 Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Council President Lynn Peterson adjourned the Metro Council work session at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janani Srinivasan, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(e) TO CONDUCT DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY TO NEGOTIATE REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION ORS 192.660(2)(h), TO CONSULT WITH COUNSEL CONCERNING THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PUBLIC BODY WITH REGARD TO CURRENT LITIGATION OR LITIGATION LIKELY TO BE FILED.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF March 19, 2019

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	PowerPoint	3/19/2019	Parks & Nature Potential Bond Renewal	031919cw-01