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## **METRO POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)**

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martha Schrader (Chair)  
Sam Chase  
Christine Lewis  
Juan Carlos Gonzalez  
Ed Gonke  
Mark Gamba  
Dick Schouten  
Don Trotter

Emerald Bogue  
Susheela Jayapal  
Rachel Lyles Smith  
Jerry Hinton  
Amanda Fritz  
Pete Truax  
Denny Doyle  
Darren Riordan  
Theresa M. Kohlhoff

### **AFFILIATION**

Clackamas County  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Metro Council  
Citizen of Clackamas County  
City of Milwaukie, Other Cities in Clackamas County  
Washington County  
Clackamas County Fire District #1, Special Districts in Clackamas County  
Port of Portland  
Multnomah County  
City of Oregon City, Second Largest City in Clackamas County  
City of Gresham, Second Largest City in Multnomah County  
City of Portland  
City of Forest Grove, Other Cities in Washington County  
City of Beaverton, Second Largest City in Washington  
City of Fairview, Other Cities in Multnomah County  
City of Lake Oswego, Largest City in Clackamas County

### **ALTERNATES PRESENT**

John Griffiths

Karen Emerson

Jennifer Donnelly  
Laurie Lebowsky  
Anthony Martin

### **AFFILIATION**

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Special Districts in Washington County  
Tigard-Tualatin School District Board of Directors, Governing Body of a School District  
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development  
City of Vancouver  
City of Hillsboro, Largest City in Washington County

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Gordon Hovies

AFFILIATION

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Special Districts in Washington County

OTHERS PRESENT: Adam Barber, Kelly Ross, Mary Phillips, Jeff Gudman, Gretchen Buehner, Anna Slatinsky, and Matthew Jarvis

STAFF: Megan Gibb, Nathan Sykes, Jon Blasher, Sara Farrokhzadian, Ramona Perrault, and Sima Anekonda

**1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Martha Schrader called meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

**2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

*There were none*

**3. COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councilor Sam Chase provided an update MPAC on how the Transportation Taskforce was continuing to work on approaches for the 2020 ballot measure. He relayed topics that were discussed during the last taskforce meeting which dealt with values that would guide prioritization. He added that more updates on the taskforce could be found on the Metro website.

Councilor Chase discussed the housing bond measure that was passed in November 2018. He recalled that Metro made an investment in affordable housing and continued to detail the design aspects of the project. He described the phase one projects and emphasized that bond was mainly being implemented by the seven jurisdictions.

Councilor Chase updated MPAC on the Division Transit Project to improve bus services. He said was Division's first bus rapid project.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Pete Truax asked that his comments from the February 13, 2019 be altered to reflect how city governments were the test engines for new projects and never shut down.

MOTION: Commissioner Dick Schouten moved and Mayor Mark Gamba seconded, to approve the consent agenda.

ACTION: With all in favor, motion passed.

## **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **5.1 2020 Census Complete Count**

Commissioner Lori Stegmann explained her work with the US Census Bureau and Portland State University (PSU). She explained her work on the Oregon Complete Count Committee and relayed that the members of the committee expressed a number of concerns regarding the 2020 census. She expressed her dedication to elevating marginalized voices during the census process.

Commissioner Stegmann noted that \$1.5 billion were allocated each year to Oregon and that \$883 billion were distributed throughout the nation. She described how the census was related to these allocations then highlighted there were a few states slated to lose representation. She clarified that Oregon was projected to gain representation.

Commissioner Stegmann noted that the Census Bureau was understaffed and underfunded. She noted that some communities would face barriers to completing the census survey then expressed that some areas will most likely complete the survey online. She mentioned that an online survey is both efficient but also recognized the way in which it created barriers. She conveyed that for individuals who would do not have access to the internet, they would receive a postcard in the mail to fill out the census survey. She added that individuals would be prompted to fill out the survey several times until its completion.

Commissioner Stegmann spoke to the debates surrounding the presence of a citizenship question on the census survey. She stated that three lower courts struck down the possibility, but that the issues would be considered the Supreme Court on April 23rd. She acknowledged that many people in Oregon feared the citizenship question and recognized the need for the State to relieve those anxieties. She recognized that the government was not the best entity to show up on people's doorsteps and shared that the Oregon was relying deeply on community partners to conduct outreach strategies. She reported that there had been a number of classes to help with the 2020 census and mentioned that each board member had hosted an information session. She added that, within Multnomah County, each department or division had a point person that could be utilized while gathering the data as well as provide more information on the census. She expressed gratitude to be working with Commissioner Chloe Eudaly from the City of Portland.

Commissioner Stegmann reported on the work conducted with the Census Funder Committee of Oregon as well as with Dancing Hearts Consulting. She added that Sara Bushar, a specialist at the Census Bureau, was also being engaged. She highlighted that 1 in 5 Oregonians do not complete the survey and that marginalized groups have low completion rates. She spoke to various software programs which would increase response rate as well as provide geographical data of responders.

Commissioner Stegmann stated that the Census Bureau was hiring and that the Portland field offices would be hiring 300 enumerators for the summer 2019. She stated that the jobs would be \$18 to \$20 an hour and provided flexible working hours.

Commissioner Stegmann then discussed summer youth employment opportunities. She reported that Census Day was on April 23rd of 2020 and that forms needed to be submitted to federal offices by December 21st 2020. She added that Metro would play a major role in redistricting.

*Member discussion included:*

- Councilor Theresa Kohlhoff appreciated Commissioner Stegmann's dedication to making individuals in Oregon feel safe, however voiced concern regarding the citizenship question. She asked if individuals were required to answer the citizenship question. Commissioner Stegmann stated that individuals did not need to answer every question on the survey.
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz asked why workers were required to have a car. Ms. Rebecca Stavenjord stated that it was a requirement from the Federal Census Bureau and emphasized that there was an effort to work around this requirement. Ms. Stavenjord added that the enumerators would be required to work across Oregon and that there would be many applicants for the positions.
- Mayor Mark Gamba suggested that refraining to fill out the citizenship question could be an interesting activist campaign. Councilor Kohlhoff voiced support for Mayor Gamba's comments.
- Mayor Pete Truax asked why applicants for the enumerator job opportunities in Multnomah County needed to be citizens. Ms. Stavenjord stated that U.S. citizenship was required to hold an enumerator position and added that the summer positions were paid for by federal dollars. Mayor Truax spoke to the actions taken by Forrest Grove. Commissioner Stegmann welcomed any feedback on how to make the positions more inclusive. Ms. Stavenjord acknowledged that there were other jurisdictions which were arguing against this requirement.

- Mr. Ed Gronke asked about the US Census' sampling techniques and survey return rates. Commissioner Stegmann clarified that Oregon would lose \$1,169 per person who was not counted in the census.
- Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez inquired about how philanthropies were expected to engage. Ms. Stavenjord explained that the CEFO Collaborative was working with Dancing Heart, a consultant who was responsible for implementation. She then clarified the timeline for the plan's implementation and noted that community based organizations would be engaged. She stated that if an individual did not respond to the survey, then home visits would be employed.
- Commissioner Schouten inquired about the individuals working on the implementation of the census survey.
- Mayor Truax inquired about the funding for affordable housing in Oregon. Commissioner Stegmann stated that census funding could potentially jeopardize funding for affordable housing. She stated that people were experiencing a great amounts of fear regarding this conversation and added that this needed to be a statewide effort. She stated how census data was leveraged by non-profits.
- Chair Schrader asked how technology had changed since the previous census. Commissioner Stegmann recalled the immense amount of ground work being done and discussed how a digital inclusion network was being engaged by City of Portland and the City of Gresham. She added that technology would help to complete the survey form and that a point person in each department was appointed.

## **5.2 Regional Parks and Nature Bond: Potential Framework**

Mr. Jon Blasher provided an overview of Metro's role in the region regarding parks and nature. He explained that the Council directed that the bond maintain the current tax rate. He stated that the Council informed how investment help make each community more resilient to climate change and addressed racial equity.

Mr. Blasher conveyed the following aspects of the Council's policy direction: nearby nature, trails and supporting large scale community visions. He detailed that the importance of maintaining and improving proximity and access for people to local regional rivers, parks, and natural areas. He relayed that trails increased physical connections to important destinations using safe bike and pedestrian trails and pathways. He spoke to the need to leverage regional investments to increase people's access to nature in urban areas. Commissioner Dick Schouten inquired about different projects important to the community. Mr. Blasher responded stated that the Willamette Falls Project was included.

Mr. Blasher listed the program areas in the bond: protect and restore land, local parks and nature projects, nature in the neighborhoods grants, care for Metro parks, biking and walking trails, and large scale community visions. He stated that the bond also recognized strategies for ecological improvements as well as how to decolonize certain areas. He spoke to the interest in developing a culturally significant plan community.

Mr. Blasher spoke to refinement phase after potentially receiving funds for the bond. He stated that the potential program would protect 3,500-4,000 acres. He mentioned that it would fund 2-4 major restoration projects as well as allow collaboration with communities to refine acquisition priorities. He said that the potential project included new land management strategies as well.

Mr. Blasher spoke to the potential program's local parks and nature projects strategy. He explained that the strategy allowed funds to be allocated by local population. He explained that the new requirements affected inclusive engagement, racial equity outcomes, and improved climate resiliency.

Mr. Blasher reported on the Nature in Neighborhoods grants program area. He stated that, under this program area, over 100 projects would be funded with competitive grants. He said that the program areas would allow for flexibility for match, partnerships, and timelines. He noted that there was continued discussion in advancing racial equity as well as limiting administrative costs.

Mr. Blasher discussed the racial equity and community investments program area along with Metro parks. He stated that Metro parks would undergo an upgrade for critical infrastructure, improved accessibility, and completed Council-adopted master plans, and sites for underserved communities to access lands and rivers.

Mr. Blasher outlined the trails for biking and walking program area. He stated that the program area would acquire 8-10 miles of new regional trail corridors, construct 6 miles of new regional trails, and maintain up to 10 miles of existing trails. He mentioned that the program area would also remedy 1-2 key pinch points, allow Metro to lead acquisition and construction, and create potential for locally-led projects.

Mr. Blasher spoke to the large-scale community visions under the potential program. He stated that this program area included regionally significant projects, leveraged public investments, included public and private partnerships, and had potential for significant technical assistance from Metro. He added that Willamette Falls River walk would be funded through this program area.

Mr. Blasher detailed the bond's public opinion research. He explained that a majority of people supported a proposed Metro measure and added that water quality, natural areas, and wildlife habitat protection were topic investment priorities. He stated that there was strong support for maintaining existing regional parks operated by Metro. Mr. Blasher identified that the public wanted parks and natural areas safer and more welcoming to low-income families and communities of color.

Mr. Blasher discussed the path to the bond's referral decision then updated MPAC on engagement activities that would be taking place in April 2019.

*Member discussion included:*

- Mr. Ed Gronke voiced support for the program. He then asked how the racial equity lens changed the work conducted by Parks and Nature. Mr. Blasher mentioned that a large plate of land located at Chehalem Ridge was slated for the construction of various mansions, but due to ecological barriers and after several conversations with Centro Cultural, the project became more nature focused. Mr. Blasher stated that this example showed how community engagement helped shift the project's end goal. Mr. Blasher stated that Centro Cultural was utilized to help design specific community engagement activities.
- Mr. John Griffiths asked how to understand what areas were of cultural significance to Native American communities. Mr. Blasher stated that every place was special and that it was vital to develop strong relationships with tribal entities and sovereign governments. Mr. Blasher stated that cultivating these relationship was where substantial progress was made and acknowledged that working with communities was a slow process. Mr. Blasher stated that it was crucial that government entities listen to communities of color and Native populations as well as take ownership of wrong doings.
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz mentioned that City of Portland had a tribal liaison who has expressed that Native groups would not tell government agencies where their sacred lands were located. Commissioner Fritz described the City of Portland's approach to conducting intentional outreach to tribes and sovereign nations. She stated that the City was looking to engage with local agencies as well. Commissioner Fritz then asked if a formal consultation process was utilized. Mr. Blasher confirmed.
- Councilor Anthony Martin suggested there be more guidance on the population centric matrix to better equip communities throughout the planning process. Councilor Martin then inquired about a communication plan for the cities involved. Mr. Blasher clarified that outreach was being conducted with park providers and park directors. Mr. Blasher shared that briefings were also be held by Metro's Government Affairs team.

- Councilor Darren Riordan asked if there were specific projects in Blue Lake that were of consideration, adding that Blue Lake had cultural relevance. Mr. Blasher stated that Parks and Nature was refreshing Blue Lake's master plan. Mr. Blasher highlighted that the City of Fairview was undergoing an urban renewal and was eager to engage Metro.
- Commissioner Susheela Jayapal spoke to the social determinants of health and a large scale community vision. She expressed interest the Albina Vision Trust project and asked if this would be of interest to Metro. Mr. Blasher confirmed. Commissioner Jayapal then inquired about Multnomah County's involvement in planning discussions. Mr. Blasher stated that there had been an immense amount of outreach to Multnomah County. He then spoke to the Rosewood Initiative's concern with the Glendoveer Golf Course and fitness trail and the community engagement that was practiced during that project.
- Councilor Kohlhoff expressed concern regarding the disabled population and their ability to access parks and trails. She emphasized the importance of including individuals in wheelchairs during development processes. Councilor Kohlhoff provided anecdotes surrounding children with disabilities and emphasized the importance of including this equity lens in parks and nature development. Mr. Blasher stated the importance of including different groups in parks and nature conversations. He stated that a consultation planning process was utilized to work more directly with community members. Councilor Sam Chase added that part of the levy focus was on disabled people to ensure their access to trails and different natural areas.
- Commissioner Fritz mentioned Discovery Park's inclusive construction and ADA design. She then asked whether MPAC would be voting on this matter. Mr. Blasher stated that the formal voting opportunity would occur out of the jurisdictions. Councilor Chase explained that MPAC played an advisory role with a functional plan. Commissioner Fritz inquired about community leaders. Mr. Blasher explained that members were recruited from culturally specific organizations and conservation communities. Commissioner Fritz sought clarity on the proportions of funding for each program area. Mr. Blasher clarified potential allocation ranges for each program area. Commissioner Fritz asked how jurisdictions would prioritize large scale community visions. Mr. Blasher stated the refinement process for those areas were still being determined. Commissioner Fritz inquired about the southwest rail line. Mr. Blasher indicated that a refinement process was underway. Commissioner Fritz inquired about funds for operations and maintenance. Mr. Blasher stated that that was a larger conversation that needed to be had with the region and park providers. Commissioner Fritz asked about the levy and Mr. Blasher stated that would be considered further into 2022. Commissioner Fritz asked that a map of the target areas be provided to MPAC.




- Commissioner Dick Schouten stated that he was on the Tualatin Park Foundation and appreciated that the local share for the program was much more flexible. He expressed excitement for the large amount of infill entering the region. He stated work being done by the Special Olympics and other organizations that were interested in running a program. He spoke to developments in Mountain View Champions Park.
- Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith sought clarity on the details of a parks and nature community forum. Mr. Blasher clarified that the forum was on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 5:30-8:30 at Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus.

## **6.0 ADJOURN**

Chair Schrader adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sima Anekonda', with a large, stylized 'A' and a circular flourish.

Sima Anekonda  
Recording Secretary

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2019**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DOCUMENT TYPE</b>	<b>DOC DATE</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DOCUMENT No.</b>
<b>5.2</b>	Presentation	4/10/19	Potential bond: Protect & connect Nature & people presentation	041019m-01
<b>5.2</b>	Handout	4/10/19	Out Big Backyard Spring 2019	041019m-02
<b>5.2</b>	Handout	4/10/19	Memo: Potential 2019 Parks and Nature Bond Program draft maps and project lists	041019m-03