

Metro

*600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov*



Metro

Minutes

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

2:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/471155552> or 877-853-5257 (toll free)

Council work session

2:00 Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Peterson called the Work Session to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council President Lynn Peterson, Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Councilor Bob Stacey, Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, and Councilor Mary Nolan

Work Session Topics:**2:10 Strategic Framework Review**

Council President Peterson introduced Marissa Madrigal and Tobey Fitch to present on the topic.

Staff raised the Strategic Recovery Framework Presentation.

Staff covered the role of Metro in the region as a long-term planning agency. Staff explained how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Metro in terms of fiscal uncertainty, employee lay-offs, and revenue shortfalls. Additionally, region-wide impacts were identified, such as racial inequity, risk of homelessness, and uneven economic recovery.

Staff identified difficult challenges and choices to be made to support a recovery framework. Guiding values and principles-such as public service, resilience, safety, and a commitment to racial justice, climate justice, and shared prosperity-were reviewed and defines to be the building blocks of the recovery effort in order for Metro to keep their promises and build back better.

Next steps were identified, including department and venue engagement and alignment, established guidance for budget and program planning work, the identification of necessary support and initiatives, and a review of these plans and

budgets by Council before June.

The following guidance was sought from Council:

- Does Metro Council agree with the problem statement?
- How do the commitments, values and principles align with Council's vision for regional recovery and growth?
- Does this framework capture the key areas where Metro can apply these principles?

Council Discussion

Councilor Craddick identified a need to consider a timeline as well, and Marissa explained the role that a department and an overall framework can play to help support a timeline.

Councilors recognized the many changes that will impact the budget process and implored staff to make partners, the public, and stakeholders aware of the impact of these changes. Council acknowledged that the budget will need to be rebuilt, and that this gives them the opportunity to ensure the budget reflects Council's values. Councilor Gonzalez requested a breakdown of where the budget has been cut and voiced a desire to be able to 'open a lid' on the general fund. Councilor Lewis likewise sought avenues within the framework to ensure work is done and appropriately recognized. Councilor Rosenthal sought to expand further on what 'Build Back Better' means and iterated a desire to forward further comments in the form of a memo. Staff acknowledged that the inverse-'Build Back Worse'-could be entirely possible provided they were not guided by meaningful principles to ensure this does not happen.

Councilor Stacey questioned Metro's need to be involved in

venues such as Expo and whether it is a critical service to the public Metro serves or if it would benefit Metro to hold onto this venue.

President Peterson praised Metro's response to struggles faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the act of 'leading with heart' by acting in support of the public, and keeping in mind the needs of the region. She further identified a need to identify clear direction and expectations on roles and responsibilities for staff and Council in order to best succeed as a team.

Councilor Nolan identified a want to vet out services that went unfunded during the COVID-19 pandemic that no longer serve the public. Effectively, 'Build Back Better' should not be accompanied by the expectation that things are going to be returned exactly to their former state. Staff acknowledged this struggle and spoke in part to the burdens faced by the venues and some smaller projects that have been suspended. Staff agreed that building back could mean building back 'fresh'. President Peterson voiced a want to ensure that Metro is putting back in such a way that best serves the people and employees.

President Peterson voiced that staff and Council should both independently have a discussion about needs moving forward and reconvene to discuss in order to contribute all the more to a beneficial framework. Marissa would be having a retreat with directors shortly to have such a discussion and return to Council. Marissa additionally assured Councilors of thorough communication pending coming to Council for any sort of decision.

2:55 Chief Operating Officer Communication

Marissa Madrigal provided an update on the following events or items:

- Multnomah County moved back into a high risk COVID-19 category

3:00 Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings and events:

- Parks Bond Refinement Meeting

3:05 Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Peterson adjourned the Metro Work Session at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shay Starling, Legislative Assistant