



TSCC Regular Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Chair Harmony Quiroz, Commissioners Ofsink, Norton, and Donahue were present, as were Executive Director Allegra Willhite and Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart, all via Zoom Meeting.

Absent: Commissioner Mark Wubbold

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Quiroz called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Tax Election Hearing Debrief

In discussing the four tax hearings held in October and November, Commissioners mentioned the following:

- TSCC's policy of following the district's lead concerning in-person or virtual hearings sends the right message to the districts.
- The introductory script was good.
- Asking for public comments at the beginning was an improvement.
- The quality of hearing questions and discussions seemed better than in the past. The conversation was more fluent.
- Providing the links to previous hearings and recent news articles is very helpful for commissioners when generating questions and encouraging conversations.
- Asking a question at the end of the hearing that allows the district to explain and promote the levy was a positive way to end the hearing.
- Keeping the prepared questions to a minimum allows for more discussion.

TSCC Annual Report

The commissioners discussed celebrating the 100-year edition of the annual report. Since the object of the 100th-year celebration is to get the word out to the public about what TSCC does and how the commission can better serve the people, the commissioners decided that this would not result in the desired goal. Some of the suggestions to reach that goal were:

- Attend events related to a project that one of the districts is working on and inviting others to join
- Attend a few of the larger districts' budget committee meetings and even sign up to give testimony at these meetings;
- Volunteer at an event at one of the soil and water conservation districts
- Volunteer at the Multnomah County Library

- Help pick up trash in downtown Portland
- Use the op-ed to promote the continual work of the TSCC that has provided

The intent is to let the public know that the commissioners help the districts make sound financial decisions but are also interested in the work of our districts.

Communication for the 2023 budget Season

Executive Director Willhite Allegra discussed moving forward using the Communication Plan. This discussion involved:

- Creating a TSCC previous commissioners' contact list;
- Op-ed between January and April, closer to budget hearings. (Commissioner Ofsink volunteered to reach out to the reporter doing the op-ed piece)
- Sending a letter again to elected officials before the hearing. Staff may want to add some background on TSCC duties etc.
- Commissioners attend some of the larger districts' budget committee meetings (Staff will create a list of when and how to attend)

When TSCC staff meets with the districts in the staff to staff meetings, be sure to:

- Ask the larger district for the name of the reporter who is covering the district's events.
- Mention sending an email to the Bond oversight committees or budget oversight committees.'

Demand Letter

Concerning the Demand Letter regarding Portland Community College, Executive Director Willhite said she had not received any further communication following her response to Tom Busse explaining next steps would include receiving a list of petitioning taxpayers with their addresses. She will continue to wait for a reply and send a copy to the commissioners if she receives a response.

Commissioner Donahue also received an email from Mr. Busse and will send a copy to Executive Director Willhite to keep as a part of the record.

Wrap-up & Other Business

Hearing schedule

The City of Portland and PPS hearings are on the same day. Prep time for the hearings was discussed. There will be additional support during the budget season with the addition of Shannon Turk as a temporary budget analyst. It will be a very busy time. As requested by the Commission, budget reviews will be a bit shorter, with a high-level focus on the material needing discussion and less on the summary of the entire budget.

Stacking five or six small districts in one meeting and possibly meeting to discuss these smaller districts following a hearing was suggested. Once all smaller districts have sent in their calendars, staff will better understand how this will play out.

Update on Staffing

Intern posting has been advertised with the local universities' master's and undergraduate programs. At this time, the staff has received only one application. The closing date is December 12.

FY 2023 Budget Update

The budget is on track to meet the goals. The office lease will expire in March 2023. Currently, staff is looking into extending a year to give them time to relocate. Keeping some office space seems like the best option. As per statute, the county covers the cost of the space. Fifty percent of the cost is then allocated to the districts each year. Executive Director Willhite will meet with Multnomah County facilities later today to discuss options.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.