

METRO REGIONAL COALITION

Agenda

November 13, 2018

Noon to 1:30 pm

GPCOG, 970 Baxter Boulevard, Portland

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Acceptance of minutes from October 9, 2018 meeting (Attachment A)

3. Updates on 2018 Priorities (10 min.)

- **Expanding housing choices**
- **Homelessness**
- **Opiate misuse**

4. Marijuana ordinances, enforcement and data collection in Portland (50 minutes)

Aligning approaches to recreational and medical marijuana is a top Metro Regional Coalition priority. Staff from various departments with the City of Portland will join us to present an overview of Portland's efforts to design and implement local marijuana regulations to date. They will share how the City is structuring the implementation of its ordinances, factors they are prioritizing as they move forward with regulation, and how the City intends to collect data about the hidden costs of implementation and enforcement.

After their presentation we will have time for Q&A focused on how other Metro Regional Coalition communities might align their approaches to marijuana regulation and enforcement so that the region is positioned to speak with one voice at the state house on needed resources, and work together to manage this new municipal challenge.

5. Regional Fire Training Facility Update (30 minutes)

We will receive an update from Scarborough Fire Chief Michael Thurlow on the Metro Fire Chiefs' efforts to date to establish a regional fire training facility located at Ecomaine.

The briefing will include:

- Brief review of the regional training facility concept and history of the project

- Update on discussions with Cumberland County regarding the County option of taking the lead on this initiative
- Update on discussions with Kevin Roche at Ecomaine on their continued interest in assisting with this project
- Request for guidance and potential funding for next steps

Next Meetings

- December 11
- January 8

Metro Regional Coalition MINUTES

October 9, 2018

In Attendance:

Name	Affiliation
Tom Hall	Scarborough
Matt Sturgis	Cape Elizabeth
Caleb Hemphill	Falmouth
Jon Jennings	Portland
Ethan Strimling	Portland
Scott Morelli	South Portland
Jim Gailey	Cumberland County
Jerre Bryant	Westbrook
Sue Henderson	South Portland
Gail Kezer	Senator King's Office
For GPCOG:	Kristina Egan Chris Hall Jessa Berna

Welcome

Ethan Strimling called the meeting to order.

Acceptance of 9/11/18 minutes

Moved by Jon Jennings and seconded by Caleb Hemphill. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Homelessness next steps

At our September meeting, the group enumerated the barriers to siting a Housing First project outside of Portland and discussed the feasibility of a regional financial contribution from the County. Scott Morelli reiterated South Portland's willingness to consider some type of project that marries Housing First with tiny houses, and will look to his Council for guidance. Jim Gailey said that the County is open to further exploration of a County contribution, and noted that all of the County's human service contributions are flowing through Thrive2027.

Given the County's openness to continue the discussion, the group agreed, with dissent from Jon, to develop a modest proposal for County consideration to contribute operating funds to Housing

First facilities. GPCOG staff will work with County staff to prepare for a Metro Regional Coalition presentation to the County Commissioners. In response to Jon's guidance to pursue likely and impactful work, staff will not spend a lot of time on this activity.

Housing next steps

The group framed a set of questions to help set a baseline for what MRC communities are doing to increase housing choices. This will set the table for a joint commitment from the communities to expand the supply and diversity of housing in the region, similar to the commitment made by the Metro Mayors Coalition in Boston.

- What is the existing range of existing housing options in each MRC community?
- What policies, ordinances and zoning provisions does each community have regarding housing choices?
- What is the current community attitude toward expanding housing choices? What motivates those attitudes?
- What barriers exist currently to expanding choices?
- Can folks who work in the community afford to live in the community?
- How is the housing market changing – can our analysis anticipate market shifts?
- What municipal assets are available to help increase choice? Town owned land? Housing Trust funds? Non-profit allies like Habitat for Humanity?

Staff will provide a template for each municipality to answer these questions. Managers felt it was reasonable to provide answers to the questions within a month's time.

The group agreed to build on existing research, and staff will investigate whether there is research from Muskie, MSHA, Planning Decisions, or others to ground our work to expand housing supply and choices. Staff asked for the MRC to support staff's efforts to raise funding to support this work on housing, and the members unanimously agreed to do so. A suggestion was made to pursue funds from financial institutions and the real estate community.

Advocacy priorities

Chris Hall outlined the public policy priorities developed by GPCOG's Regional Voice Committee. The group had several suggestions, including a focus on developing a strong relationship with the new administration, adding more content on Cumberland County issues, adding more on increasing worker wages and benefits, and adding work on smart cities. Ethan Strimling noted that the document is very comprehensive and that we will collectively need to focus on advancing a handful of priorities. He said that allowing for local option sales tax will be a top priority of the Mayors Coalition and MMA.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.