

Meeting Minutes
Oregon Public Records Advisory Council
May 6, 2021

Present: Todd Albert (chair), Mark Landauer, Les Zaitz, Emily Harris, Sen Thatcher

Todd Albert: Happy to be here as newly confirmed advocate, and newly the chair. Looking forward to your guidance on parliamentary procedure, etc., in this new role.

Goes over agenda: approve agenda, approve past minutes, discuss drafting letter from PRAC to Joint Ways and Means to support SB500.

Agenda unanimously approved. (Zaitz moved)

Move to approve Feb 5 minutes. (Zaitz moved)

Sen. Thatcher: Question about process for posting minutes. Paused until after vote.

Last meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Sen. Thatcher question: Where do the minutes get posted/shared? Used to get in email?

Todd Albert: They are always posted on PRAC site; Stephanie had included in meeting notices; I did not but can. Agreed it would be helpful and will do.

Todd Albert: Request for notetaker to prepare today's meeting; he is understaffed and doesn't want to delay posting. Will address long term in future.

Emily Harris volunteers.

Todd Albert: Reason for meeting: after discussions with leaders on subcommittee on government, hearing support/wants to hear the bill...suggestion was made that PRAC members should draft a letter in support of the bill, as has been done in past. Don't think should come from Advocate's office; already done a great deal of legwork on this, and given the deep bench of bipartisan experts on Council, PRAC voices would add great weight to the letter. Suggests one PRAC member of media/public + government draft.

Todd Albert asks if there is public comments on his issue exclusively.

Mark Landauer: Are you asking for public comment or PRAC member?

Todd Albert: Public comment first, then PRAC discussion, then vote.

No public comments.

Public comments closed.

Todd Albert: Do we think this letter is appropriate? Who will draft? Is the Council okay with those two people + Todd fleshing out final version? Who will present letter to co-chairs?

Emily Harris: Question on timeline - when does this need to be finished if we do it?

Todd Albert: Revenue forecast is May 19; things will move quickly after that. But the sooner the better as legislation is moving. Suggests by end of next week.

Scott Winkels: Don't think Ways and Means have been hearing policy bills. Been focused on budget. Wouldn't tarry but not under the gun.

Les Zaitz: Is there a request from co-chairs for specific information? Are we addressing only financial issues or looking for general support?

Todd Albert: In some essence this is a policy bill, not just a straight budget bill for already established agency coming up for review. Bill asks to establish the Advocate 2.0 and fund appropriately. I'm suggesting a letter speaks to importance of the bill, the strength it provides to the stabilizing force the Advocate and Council bring to public records discussions, and ask in appropriate fashion for adequate funding. Including two positions, public records analyst and admin assistant, to help with work and maintain stability. Helpful to mention in a letter.. There is a LFO statement on SB 500 on Olis, letter could refer to it. A little bit of everything in as short a letter as possible.

Mark Landauer: If I recall right, one primary components is to make office independent with independent budget. Correct?

Todd Albert: Yes, the bill would make office independent and move existing budget over from DAS, but will also be standing up essentially a new agency, will need to start paying its own way (rent, IT, HR, etc.) even if two positions not approved. So will be additional monies needed.

Mark Landauer: Means legislators on Ways and Means are going to have to create an independent budget for new office. So sooner for this letter is important, rather than later. They're going to have to do a little work here as a result of what we are asking them to do. The more time we give them to accomplish that, the better. So I agree if we can get it finalized by the end of next week and submitted by COB Friday next week, that would probably be ideal.

Michael Kron: I just looked at the fiscal impact statement of moving budget from DAS to PRA office - I don't see additional positions in posted fiscal impact statements. Is something for full financial requirements available somewhere?

Todd Albert: I will need to go look at LFO. Maybe confusing my notes sent to them, with class and comp and position descriptions. I know DAS has POP or two pending in their budget as well for those positions. Adam?

Adam: We do have some policy option packages before the legislature. One is dealing with a public records system, a statewide enterprise system. The other, would have to go look to see what was requested on behalf of PRA office.

Todd Albert: I can go pull that information and provide to Council.

Motion to approve the idea to write the letter (Emily Harris; Mark Landauer second.)

Discussion:

Michael Kron: If we're talking about a letter we are writing on a short timeframe, it would be helpful to have the information needed. Would like to know what we're asking for. Two positions

seem like a reasonable thing to ask for, but no idea how much that costs, & I haven't looked at the numbers in terms of work office has been doing, and the support that's been provided, and it seems like there are lots of things we'd want to say in the letter about what we are asking for. I'm sure the info is there, but not sure we have it today.

Todd Albert: Not sure if we need to get into the weeds of specific budgetary numbers in the letter. More as continuation of work of PRAC to get its bill passed, as much as it can. These letters tend not to be long. I think of it as urging the co-chairs to hear the bill and work toward funding appropriately. Not sure we need to quote figures in letter.

Michael Kron: Makes sense

Todd Albert: Can send out the LFO, my memo to LFO laying out details of advocate and support positions; budget for travel and trainings when possible again. And can share the DAS POP with the proposal for two positions.

Emily Harris: Good to have that, even if shorter letter, in case need any follow up with lawmakers, etd.

Todd Albert: Sen Thatcher - anything need to include?

Sen Thatcher: I would just give some background, maybe since it's been a couple years, just some very short background - bullet points, so easy/scannable to read.

Todd Albert: I have learned the value of that.

Motion vote on writing letter to Ways and Means co-chairs of general gov subcommittee
Unanimously passes
No abstentions
Passes - PRAC will be writing a letter.

Discussion:

Mark Landauer asks about clarifying whether this is from PRAC or individuals.

Les Zaitz: Motion is from the PRAC

Scott Winkels: My understanding is we are appointing three to draft; letter from PRAC. If we wanted PRAC to write, would need another meeting.

Todd Albert: letter would be from PRAC. Does that affect anyone's previous vote.

Emily Harris: Clarifying that we appoint three people, they write, PRAC does not have to read and approve, but it is sent from PRAC.

Scott Winkels: That is how has done in past.

Determined: Letter is coming from PRAC

Emily Harris has volunteered as media rep.

Todd Albert is volunteering.

Todd Albert: We need a state or local government rep.

Kim Thatcher can help out

Emily Harris: Can we get a government rep in addition to Sen Thatcher to at least review a draft?

Mark willing to review a draft.

Todd Albert: Do we need another vote?

Mark Landauer: sufficient

Todd Albert: Do we need a vote on who sends it?

Scott Winkels: leave it to the drafters to decide who hits send.

Mark Landauer: Seems it doesn't require a vote. Thinks needs to go to co-chairs of ways and means, as well as subcommittee chairs and co-chairs, and probably the rest of that particular committee, and chairs of full Ways and Means. Proper approach. Don't think we need to get into that fine of detail here.

Emily Harris: Great list - anyone else?

Todd Albert: It hasn't been sent to a subcommittee. Part of the desire to get letter out is to get it assigned to a subcommittee. Or the full committee, Ways and Means, though General Government seems like a likely path.

Mark Landauer: Sometimes bills not taken up, but incorporated into larger bills in ways and means. I can have a further discussion with staff and Ways and Means - to figure out the most appropriate subcommittee to send to. If okay with PRAC.

Todd Albert: I think appropriate to use what knowledge that you have to support bills of interest to constituency or employer.

Emily Harris: Sounds helpful Mark.

Motion for adjournment; meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM