

Rose City Metro Report  
Saturday, May 26, 2007

The Rose City Metro Service met at its usual place and time, Paulist Center 16<sup>th</sup> and Division Ave on, Tuesday, May 10, 2007.

Today we vote on a motion to decide to essentially recess the hard work and service done by the people who have gone and served their areas as members of the Rose City Metro Committee from the three NA Areas(PASC, TVA, and GWV) serving the Portland Metropolitan Area. The PASC and the groups of Portland have voted to be a part of this committee. The two majors reasons that have been given for this stopping of the progress have been given are that one, the groups don't understand what a metro is and two that metro needs more time to coordinate what we are doing with the groups and area.

I ask how many of you have taken the time to find out what the Metro Service Committee is doing? I have in every report asked the members (not all were written in electronic format) to come and see and help to see if this is something that makes sense. And now recently with the usual contempt prior to investigation, very little if any, have tried to understand what this body has almost unanimously voted for over the last 2 and half years. The most ironic aspect of this motion is that the Rose City Metro Service Committee has no desire to expand past the three committees that have been sent to the groups and approved. It would not make sense.

The major reason we at Metro can't give a point explanation as to what we are doing is because we are dealing with the complexity and egos of three areas. We are trying to do something that has been put in the Guide to Local Service not because it could not be done, not because it can't work, but rather as something for the Areas to explore as a possible way to better serve the Areas of a Metropolitan Area. The reason we at Metro feel that this might be something that will work is because there are not service committees established for the committees we propose to bring to metro already. It gives us a clean slate sort of with committees that are in truth already servicing the three areas already.

At the last meeting of the Metro Service Committee, we discussed at length some of the concerns that some of the Portland Area Groups of NA have expressed over the few months. I will briefly touch on them, as I understand them to be.

We identified of the questions recently express as follows:

The groups feel that the Rose City Metro is moving too fast and the groups don't really understand what a metro is or for that matter why we even need one. The next question is the fact that a metro has never been done successfully in any other part of the country or in NA. This follows that what is now going on in Portland has been working for a long

time, so why do we need one now and why change something that has been working? Another question is whether we really need another layer of service, when we can't staff all the positions at area now.

The Rose City Metro is something that has been in the works for the last two and half years. It has been talked about in every PASC meeting during this time. I personally have stood up for every single PASC meeting over this last year and have given reports and tried to answer the question of what is a Metro? Maybe I have not been clear in my explanations. There is a reason for this and that is that when I was sent to Metro to represent Portland, as it representative to the committee the Rose City Metro was only an idea that Portland had not even fully committee too. After the PASC decided that we were going to join this committee, there was in fact no Rose City Metro to join. As I began serving on the Rose City Metro Committee the committee, the representatives from all three areas and interested parties, itself was at the place that it was only deciding if this idea was something that could even work and if all the Areas even wanted to do this. The decision was made by all areas that this was something that we wanted to try and see to if this was something that would serve the primary purpose of NA and the three areas of serving the addicts that are still suffering and best serves the needs in this a metropolitan city. The very first thing we began to do was to try and define what a Metro is and was it something that could work here in Portland. We accomplished a framework for this with our bylaws.

The first thing our bylaws have done is established the Rose City Metro as a **Service Committee** that is geared to servicing the three areas. The three service areas that we feel it would make the most sense for combining in the three areas would be the Hotline, HI and PI. These three committees make sense to us because for the most part they are already functioning in as metro service committees already.

These are briefly some of the reasons that we feel as to why a Metro Service Committee works for the three areas:

1. Hotline and H.I. are already serving all three areas
2. Having one number for all of Portland Metro is less complicated than having many numbers. We are ready with a Rose City Metro Service Committee schedule.
3. Having one central voice for NA in this area for the public to deal with when looking for NA for information again makes sense because of the particulars of this area and its particular geographical logistics.
4. It will seemly be very difficult if we were to try and separate H and I because of the clearance needed for some of the different facilities. If we were to make changes, this could lead to months of commitments not met as the authorities learn to deal with a new set people.

For the record, change is not always bad. Holding onto old ideas simply because they are how we have always done it--doesn't always make sense. Even if it did work at one time, doing something because it something that we have always done it would have left this

country with slavery and more half the population with out the right to vote—meaning most of the people in this room would not have this right. And it would have meant that NA might not have morphed from AA. We have no plans to go any further than these three areas of service because we think that we can do this in such a way that it will work to best serve the NA members in this area and under the unique set of circumstances that Portland has found itself in as the result of a recent split. That in my opinion was long overdue anyways following the notion of what best serves the addicts of each of the areas. Areas were arguably not being served well because of the under representation caused by the distance that exists from Hillsboro to Wilsonville to Troutdale to Delta Park/ Jansen Beach area.

The Rose City Metro Service Committee is still trying to figure out if this is something that will work and if it will best serve the needs of the three areas. I have been told that it has not successfully been done, except one area. However, we have contacted those that have put out information on Metro and we have found that other areas and states are waiting to see if Portland might lead that way to something that someone at World thought might be a good idea because they put it in the service manual as something for us to experiment with and that is what we are really up to at the Rose City Metro Service Committee.

We are experimenting with the idea that three different Areas can work together to best serve the addicts of this large and geographically challenged Metropolitan Community.

What we might do is setup an idea that the rest of NA can benefit from. We are going to hold a in service night at the July meeting for all comers of questions and suggestions and hopefully the planning of a whole day with ADHOC Committee. Again we invite all interested parties to any meeting and we welcome all who would come give there input. The committee has no desire than to go any further than the committees that the PASC has already voted in, Activities, Literature or any other service committee make no sense for us to work on.

In closing, we are still just working on the idea to see if this is something makes sense to best serve the three areas. If Portland is not ready to support this idea or this committee, I would suggest that we decide that quickly because the people involved are spending their time and efforts and if you think in your hearts that at some point this is something that is now thought to be no longer a good idea because it has not been successfully done in some other areas, or because people don't understand what it is, I ask of you to completely pull your support. So am asking the PASC to make a decision whether to continue with the Rose City Metro or should we just let this idea die. This decision has to made and it need to be made quickly and it needs to be made now and not in six months. Because, I tell you that a lot of work (by people who have busy lives) is being done to see if the Portland Metropolitan Area can make something work that the rest of NA can only argue about.