

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL LISTENING POST

Thursday, April 13, 2006
Rm 370A/B

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka, Rod Park, Brian Newman

Councilors Absent: Robert Liberty (excused), Susan McLain (excused)

Councilor Park convened the Metro Council Listening Post at 4:04 p.m. and acknowledged the grant applicants. He provided a history of the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program as well as the protocol for the evening. He wanted this to be a learning opportunity. He was hopeful that future partnerships would develop from this process. There were 44 final applications. He provided additional details concerning requested amounts. Janelle Geddes, Nature in Neighborhoods (NIN) Program, provided more detail about how applicants would present to the audience.

Bob Storer, Clackamas County, Water Environmental Services, Three Creeks Community Restoration, said he represented eight other community partners. He shared where the three creeks were on the map. The area was 80 acres in size. It was county owned and a regional significant area. He said there were huge problems with transient camps. He spoke to the project goals. He summarized who was included in the partnership. Project objectives included conducting additional clean-ups and having additional sheriff patrols to reduce transients in the area. He explained why Metro should fund this project. Councilor Hosticka clarified the area this covered.

Julie Mikalson, NE Coalition of Neighborhoods & Woodlawn Neighborhood Assoc, Woodlawn Rain Barrel Initiative, said their campaign would help neighbors work with each other to find their own solutions. She explained the rain barrel initiative. She this would particular focused on the Columbia Slough Watershed. They were going to take responsibilities on their own properties for water pollution. She noted that this was two-year project and shared the partnerships that were included in the project.

Susan McElroy, Grout Elementary School, Partnerships to Build Lifelong Stewards, said she was the principle at the school. She talked about the composition of her school. Many of the children had never been to the beach. Three out of four homes in the school were at poverty level. This project was an effort to get kids out studying their environment. They had formed partnerships to get curriculum into the classroom and kids out of the building to study habitat. They would work on a 15-acre site in Oaks Bottom. She explained what the kids would study. She spoke to the goals of the experience. She thanked Council for considering their funding requesting.

Sheilagh Diez, Friends of Tryon Creek State Park, Explore Your Watershed, said they were a small organization. They did outreach work on ecological education. Their project was to work with two elementary schools and educate students and teachers about watersheds. They would also work with parent volunteers to work on watersheds in the area as well as on the grounds of the schools. They would take the children to Tryon Creek State Park. They would do two community wide events on protecting watersheds. They would also do a community wide project, "your watershed" event, which was an on the ground event. They were working to engage the entire community. Councilors asked about the amount of the grant and how much on the ground restoration would occur. Ms. Diez responded to their questions.

Tim Brooks, Sunnyside Neighborhood Assoc. & Sunnyside Environmental School, Sunnyside Green Guide, talked about their community-building project. He spoke to the partners included in the project. The green map project would tie in with the school's Year of the Forest theme. They would focus on urban forest and opportunities to do enhancement work in their neighborhoods. He talked about the ArcPad, which allowed the students to identify species, health and size of the trees. That data would be used as part of the Portland Parks green area mapping. They would also do a tree-planting project. They were looking at this as a pilot project. He spoke to plans for future projects.

Wisteria Loeffler, Zenger Farm, Zenger Agricultural Park – Phase I, said she was the Executive Director. She spoke to the farm's mission. They wanted to create an educational farm. She shared where the farm was on the map. She talked about capital improvements to the site. The project was focused on the site improvements around the driveway. She further detailed the planned improvements. The most interesting part of the project was to use the installation of landscape and storm water elements as a training experience for low-income individuals. The total request was about \$90,000.

Scott Guthrie, Wilson/Hayhurst Schools, Growing A Knowledgebase for Watershed Restoration in Southwest Portland, said this project combined the efforts of students, teachers, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Waste Management and Portland State University (PSU) to restore and monitor a small watershed close to the schools. He said Wilson High School students had been doing a restoration program for the past three years. This project brought rich new educational opportunities. He spoke to the planned results of the project. He noted key objectives for the project for the high school and elementary school children. All of the children would learn about waste management. He summarized the partners who were participating in the project. Councilor Newman asked what the role of Waste Management was in the project. Mr. Guthrie responded to his question.

Cheryl Bland, Ventura Park/David Douglas School District, Spreading the Green Word, said their model for the project was reduce, reuse, recycle and restore. She provided the demographics of the elementary schools where many children were under the poverty level. She said there had been an increase in waste produced. She noted the mobility of the area. They wanted to strengthen their partnerships. They had a K-12 approach. They were looking to produce the information in three languages. They had placed-based learning. They were requesting money for materials for restoration projects. She provided additional details on their projects. Councilors asked about the field trips and how many students would attend. Ms. Bland shared their plans for the field trips.

Leigh Crabtree, City of Beaverton, Camille Park, said the park was a 12-acre park with Oregon White woodlands. Their partners were Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District (THPRD), Denney-Whitford Neighborhood Association, and schools in the area to restore a section that fed into Fanno Creek. Terry Priest provided details of the project. The City had started doing creek enhancement projects, which was similar to what they planned for this area. They had had a lot of success working with the neighborhoods.

Ms. Crabtree, City of Beaverton, Golden Pond, said this had been a project site for several years but there was no neighborhood association to care for their area. Mr. Priest said the property owners didn't have funding for planting. They had had good success in working with the group

previously. He noted that there were issues with dumping. They had worked with the neighbors to clean up the area.

Leigh Crabtree, City of Beaverton, Beard Road Estates, said the city owned this property. They were working with Sexton Mountain NAC, SOLV and Friends of Fanno to restore the area. Mr. Priest said there had been a lot of illegal dumping in the area. They needed to do more plantings. They would also fix the flow control in the area. They wanted better water quality and less dumping. Ms. Crabtree said these projects were part of a larger overlay of projects in the Tualatin Basin. Mr. Priest said they had a good track record for improving areas.

Colleen Mitchell, Portland Parks & Recreation, Fanno Basin Stewardship, said this project involved many partners. She detailed who those partners were. She spoke to the goals of the projects. They would be working with established Friends groups in each park. She detailed the specifics of each part of the project. They would be improving water quality and restoring each of the areas. She said they had invasive plants to remove, enhancement to the wetlands, and would also reduce dog waste. She noted the amount of the money they were requesting.

Amy Chomowicz, Owens Corning/Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Wise Water & Waste Management, said this was an unusual partnership. The goal of the project was to create a showcase. They would be using this site to show how an industrial area could be infiltrated. She provided additional details about the project on the Owens Corning site. The swales were unusual. The owners wanted to create space for their employees. They would combine these spaces with the swales. She talked about the contributions to the project.

Bruce Barbarasch, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Greenway Park Enhancement Plan, shared where Greenway Park was located. It was a 90-acre park. They felt that the turf areas could become valuable wildlife and habitat areas. He detailed each stage of the three stages of the project. This project would complete a management plan for the park. They were doing a mile and a half of restoration. Much of the park was listed as regional significant. The other component was an educational piece. He felt the community was excited about the project. Councilor Burkholder asked about linkage with the schools in the area. Mr. Barbarasch responded to his question.

Ed Kerns, Lents Springwater Habitat Restoration Project, said he had started this program about 11 years ago to remove and restore the area. Over the last 11 years they had planted plants and trees for the Lents area. Most of the past participants had been students. He was seeking funding for one of the worst areas. It was a four to five block section of gravel and concrete left over from an old lumber mill. In partnership with Portland Park and Recreation District and Johnson Creek Watershed, they would remove concrete, gravel and asphalt and recycle this, bring in clean soil, and plant 6000 plants and trees. Students would do most of the work. It was about 300 feet from Johnson Creek. They were asking for about \$17,000 from Metro. They were working with several recyclers. Mr. Kerns said the more they involved the neighborhood and restored the properties the better they dealt with the transient issue. There was a lot of open space that was filled with blackberries.

Jason DuMont, Nature Conservancy, Camassia White Oak Restoration Project, said this would restore 16 acres of rare white oak. They had seen significant encroachment on the oaks. The fir trees were threatened the Camassia White Oak. They had been working on this project for many years. Community members had done most of the previous work. They were partnering with West Linn High School to do the restoration work. They would remove Douglas Firs, which were

encroaching on the Oaks. The project would also involve the planting of native plants. They were asking for \$25,000. Councilor Burkholder asked about marketing the Douglas Firs. Mr. DuMont responded to his question.

Steve Kennett, SOLV, Team Up for Watershed Health – Beaver Creek Site, talked about the Team Up program. It was a mechanism to involve the local community in water quality, clean up and restoration. He spoke to goals of the Team Up program. The program made a commitment for eight years. He explained how they involved volunteers and AmeriCorp. He talked about the history of restoration projects. He said the highest priority project was Beaver Creek. It came on the foundation of what Metro had done upstream. He talked about the composite of volunteers for the project.

Steve Kennett, SOLV, Team Up for Watershed Health – Tualatin Basin, said this was an important project for fish recovery.

Steve Kennett, SOLV, Team Up for Watershed Health – Osborne Creek Site, shared details of this project. This was in the Fairview area. The goal of the project was to involve volunteers to remove blackberries and to plant trees. He talked about the west side projects in Washington County. The main sponsor was Clean Water Services. He provided additional details on these projects. They were helping with one to three acres sites. They had also involved neighborhood associations.

Janet Gallimore, Confluence Project, Confluence Project at Sandy River Delta, said there were seven project areas with a strong environmental component. She said this was a 1400 acres site near Troutdale. As part of the partnership with the Forest Services, their project would be a 1.2-mile trail and a bird blind. They were looking at restoring five acres. She noted what their budget included. Councilor Park talked about the transient issue in that area and asked about using the bird blind as a transient site. Ms. Gallimore responded to his question. She said this bird blind was to allow public access to the wildlife.

Dilafruz Williams, Portland State University, Restoring Johnson Creek Watershed Through Learning Gardens in Schools and Neighborhoods, explained their project. She talked about a brochure, which explained the learning gardens project. She explained that they would work with three schools to get them involved in the restoration project. They would be working on two sites. She talked about the food-based project. Their project was about intersection between education and restoration. They wanted to teach students about how to practice watershed stewardship. They had established a huge number of projects and involved 950 students. There were highly diverse students participating in these projects, many minority and poverty level students. Councilor Burkholder asked her to explained the connection between the food based project and native plants. Ms. Williams explained the connection. They wanted to integrate learning and practice.

Sarah Creswell, Atkinson Elementary School, Atkinson Wildlife Habitat & Watershed Stewardship Project, said they had a lot of ethnic diversity at the school. They had five main gardening areas at their school. She provided the details of each garden at the school. They were hopeful to plant in the fall to have the kids grow food that they eat in their recipes at home. They also have an outdoor classroom where the area around needed to be landscaped. There was a lot of potential to have an impact on their community. She provided additional information about the specifics of what the students would learn. Councilor Burkholder asked about the outdoor classroom. Ms. Creswell explained the structure.

Marshall Johnson, Wetlands Conservancy, Central Hedges Creek Marsh Enhancement, said they were a non-profit organization. They were looking to restore 15 acres. They also wanted to create a volunteer corp to maintain the area. He provided details of the marsh and its history. There were some significant things that were occurring. They wanted to invigorate the enthusiasm of the community. They had already developed an enhancement plan, which they would like to implement. He spoke to partnerships they had forged. He said their project would restore a total of 60 acres.

Michael Carlson, Clackamas River Basin Council, Regional Riparian Habitat Project, said their goals were to improve water quality and improved threaten wildlife. They were looking to engage the Damascus area in caring for this area. They would engage many partners to remove knotweed along the Clackamas River Basin. They wanted to engage landowners in caring for the riparian areas. They knew it was a big project. They would also identify re-vegetation areas and waste sites to clean up. Councilor Park asked what waste companies were involved. Mr. Carlson named several companies.

Sue Marshall, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Tualatin Basin Restoration Collaborative, said they were asking for \$4900. They had identified nearing twice the amount in contributions. They wanted to do a basin wide project focusing on the knotweed removal. She spoke to outcomes of the project and components of the project. They took the lead on developing a collaborative approach. They had looked for something that was strategic and basin wide. She noted that there were nine organizations under their umbrella.

Sue Manning Fowler Middle School Fowler Woods Project – Summer Creek Restoration said teachers were always looking for a teachable moment. They were situated on 72 acres. The property included wetlands, grasslands, and forest area. The 950 students used these acres to learn. She spoke to their previous successes. She noted some of their partners. They would be expanding their restoration area on the 72-acre site. Council President Bragdon asked how this was integrated into the curriculum. Ms. Manning shared their activities during the year.

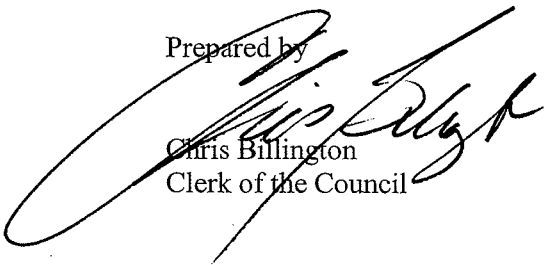
Dan Senffnwe, Open Meadow Crew, Nyberg Creek Wetlands Restoration Plan in Student Design Course, said this school was for at risk students. The project would be for the Nyberg Creek Wetlands area. 10-12 students would work with wetland scientists and landscape architects to do a design for the wetlands. He talked about the partnerships involved. He shared what they would learn in the project including ecology and landscape architecture. They had had a long-term partnership with the Wetlands Conservancy. This engaged at risk students. Councilor Burkholder asked, what comes next? An individual from the Wetlands Conservancy responded to his question.

Councilor Park closed the listening post hearing on Nature in Neighborhoods Grants and thanked the participants for their presentations.

2. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Councilor Park adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Prepared by



Chris Billington
Clerk of the Council