

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 1, 2007
Gresham City Hall Rooms 2A & 2B

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

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused), Robert Liberty (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, MAY 3, 2007//ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Bragdon reviewed the May 3, 2007 Metro Council agenda. Council discussed which amendments would be moved and which would be deferred pending further discussion.

Councilor Harrington said information on the waste reduction plan would be available from staff on Thursday. She also confirmed that the early bird registration for the GetCentered/Vancouver BC event ended May 10; regular registration ended May 24.

Council President Bragdon reported on behalf of Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, on the status of Oregon Bill 2051. The next step was to convene discussions with the Stafford interests. Council discussed the status of bills 2051 and 1011.

Councilor Communications was moved up due to the need to leave directly after the meeting for the tour. Councilor Hosticka mentioned that he was working to draft an application for urban growth boundary (UGB) amendments.

2. NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM TARGET AREA REFINEMENTS

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Bond Program Manager, said today's focus was on eastern regional target areas. A vision was taking shape in the way they overlapped, building on previous acquisitions and connecting habitat.

Jim Morgan, Parks Manager, talked about the different target areas. In the East Buttes, we proposed to build on the existing legacy. He talked about the previous public acquisitions in the area and the potential for trail connections and wildlife corridors. Councilor Harrington asked for clarification of public and private lands on the map. Mr. Morgan described some of the challenges of development and recent deforestation. This affected where they would try to focus the acquisitions. The fate of Scouter Mountain depended on the development the Boy Scouts put in place there. Councilor Harrington asked about water quality issues. She also wanted to know about the color coding of the different creeks. Mr. Morgan highlighted some of the value of the creeks. We wanted to focus on areas that could still be salvaged. There was an opportunity on Mt. Talbert to work with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Looking at Deep Creek and Tributaries, Mr. Morgan said the focus would be on the three Deep Creek branches. He talked about where the best locations for fish protection were. There were opportunities to build on previous acquisitions. There were some willing sellers in the area. Land ownership patterns were unusual; many lots were steep and deep. There were few Measure 37

claims in the area. There was still some development happening. There was very limited potential for agricultural use. Council President Bragdon asked how important the scenic views in that area were and how that would be quantified. Mr. Morgan said being in the canyon felt like being in the lower Cascades. You could walk and not see a house. He pointed out potential wildlife connections between the Buttes and the Clackamas River.

Moving to Clackamas River Buffs and Greenway, Mr. Morgan talked about the unsuccessful 1995 acquisition efforts, based on a 1992 study by Clackamas County that highlighted the greenway as their highest priority up to Carver. We were able to acquire land upstream of Carver. Our focus last time was on the North Bank Greenway. This time, we were looking also at the River Island area. There was potential for active recreational area surrounded by wildlife habitat, to add value to existing uses, as well as for restoration on side channels. Clackamas Bluffs have been included as part of the Greenway; they were connected hydrologically and in terms of wildlife movement to the river. He talked about some of the unique features for wildlife and recreationalists. There were some potential partners in this area. Council President Bragdon asked if the ownership on the lower portion had changed at all. Mr. Morgan said there were still not very many willing sellers. Councilor Harrington asked that more information be provided about the use of conservation easements in an uncertain future.

Next up with Mr. Morgan—Cazadero Trail, from Boring to Barton. Oregon State Parks owned a major portion. Part of the target area focus was to determine the best way to make the connection all the way to Barton. Council and staff discussed trail connections, ownership issues, and the need for a bridge over the Salvation Army camp. Staff said the county was excited in this area and planned to use their local share to connect to the Barton end of the trail. Councilor Hosticka asked, since there was so much overlap on the maps, did it make sense to group them as separate target areas instead of a single target area? Mr. Morgan said we had campaigned on providing some local areas. Ms. Brennan-Hunter said there was an exciting opportunity in the vision and the overall goals, in the way they overlapped.

Mr. Morgan then looked at the Johnson Creek and Watershed target area. He pointed out areas of public ownership and feeder tributaries into Johnson Creek. There were opportunities to expand into the headwater areas and to connect to the buttes. Council President Bragdon asked Ms. Brennan-Hunter about Johnson Creek; it seemed much different, being so heavily developed. What would our objective be? To go after smaller and more expensive parcels? To concentrate in a few areas? Ms. Brennan-Hunter said it could be characterized as headwaters versus direct riparian areas. That was a policy issue that was percolating up in this target area. Despite that, there were still some significantly large intact natural areas where headwaters could be protected and would be key for directing priorities for strategic acquisitions in this area. There were more direct tradeoffs, but it still fit into the bigger vision of looking at linkages for the water quality and wildlife corridors. We may have to be more opportunistic. It was a much larger area. Councilor Park asked about conservation easements, to make our money go as far as possible. We might not need to own an area if we could protect it at lower cost.

Moving on to the Sandy River Gorge, Mr. Morgan pointed out areas that were protected. The focus had been on the gorge itself. Some commercial activity (logging) and home development was still occurring. A lot of progress had been made in filling in gaps. The City of Troutdale had identified some parcels they wanted to connect to the Beaver Creek trail. Part of the area had been identified as important for fish. The Marmot Dam was going to be removed; this would result in a lot of sediment short-term. He identified the area that would be of most benefit for fish protection. Council President Bragdon thought, in terms of tradeoffs, this area seemed a lower priority—the

threat of development seemed low, there was already a lot of public ownership, weighing the target areas would be very difficult. Mr. Morgan agreed and said that would be a policy decision for Council. The staff was well aware of the issues and talked about them at length. Jane Hart, Associate Regional Planner, said that over the last ten years there had been a lot of activity with partners who were interested in the same goals and could protect some of the areas; we could use a small amount of dollars to leverage a lot of protection. Council President Bragdon said that leverage ought to be a value in making the decisions. Mr. Morgan talked about some of the partners and who could do acquisition and who could do restoration.

Next up, Lower Tualatin Headwaters including Cedar, Chicken, and Baker Creeks. Mr. Morgan talked about existing public ownership and protection, threats from development, status of water quality and decline of fish runs. There was potential to protect some rare wet prairie habitat that was rich in wildlife and particularly plant diversity. Council President Bragdon asked if wet prairie was a specific criterion that we had chosen to protect. Mr. Morgan replied that wet prairies were very important habitat and support for wildlife, which were certainly part of our values. Councilor Hosticka asked which creek would be the main focus. Mr. Morgan talked about the other agencies that were taking steps to protect this area. There might be more potential between Chicken and Baker Creeks. Council President Bragdon asked about ownership patterns. Councilor Hosticka said there were a lot of hobby farms and small wood lots with rural residential. Mr. Morgan added that there were some 20-60 acre parcels.

Lastly, the Willamette River Greenway. It went from just upstream of Wilsonville all the way to the confluence of the Columbia and included the Multnomah Channel to the county line. The challenge was to focus and build on public holdings, both for public access and habitat. Fish needed refuges all along the way in order to feed and rest. There was a lot of dependence on partners. Anything in this area would be very expensive. There was a tremendous variety of ownership and use. Mr. Morgan mentioned potential challenges, opportunities, and issues. He pointed out some crossings, some of the existing infrastructure, and the tributaries that fed into the Willamette. Councilor Harrington asked to differentiate the overlap. Mr. Morgan said the greenway was really defined as the area that bordered the river. The important thing was to think of it as one long line along the river. He pointed out gaps and where purchases could provide a continuous trail along the river and not have to leave the river. Swan Island might be a challenge. Partnerships would be key. There was a Superfund area.

Under general discussion, Councilor Harrington asked for maps showing the context of the Willamette Greenway and Canemah Bluffs, to see where they came together.

3. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Discussed under administrative communications.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Prepared by,



Dove Hotz

Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
MAY 1, 2007**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	5/3/07	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, May 3, 2007	050107c-01