



METRO

Agenda

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DATE: July 10, 2007
DAY: Tuesday
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- 2:00 PM 1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JULY 12, 2007/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS**
- 2:15 PM 2. SEPTEMBER 2007 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM LAUNCH** Brennan-Hunter/
Geddes
- 3:15 PM 3. BREAK**
- 3:20 PM 4. EXPLORATION AND FRAMING OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND NATURAL AREAS MAINTENANCE BALLOT MEASURE** Burkholder
- 4:20 PM 5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION**

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METRO COUNCIL

Work Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: July 10, 2007 Time: Length: 60 mins.

Presentation Title: September 2007 Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program
Launch

Department: Parks

Presenters: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Janelle Geddes

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

In November 2006 the voters of the region approved an increase in property taxes to finance bonds for the purpose of preserving natural areas clean water and the protection of fish and wildlife. The \$227.4 bond measure included \$15 million for a “Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program.”

The adopted Resolution (No. 06-3672B) referring the bond to the voters included program purpose and program criteria for the \$15 million dollar grant program titled “Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants.” The adopted program purpose is to provide opportunities to engage communities in the protection of habitat and water quality through a capital grant program. The adopted program detail included selection criteria, applicant eligibility and project selection process.

Metro Council met in May and adopted the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant Program as a Council Project (Resolution No. 07-3806). Previous Council discussions have included discussion of the definition of a capital project for the purposes of this program, a review of the adopted criteria and discussion of general project types that would meet the definition of a capital project.

Staff has completed a draft of a handbook for the program and have had the document reviewed by internal staff and an external focus group. The review groups were asked to give general feedback as well as answer specific questions about clarity, process and project evaluation and scoring.

The purpose of this work session is to confirm with Metro Council the implementation of the program in September 2007. Discussion will focus on program launch timeline, feedback from internal and external stakeholders, the role of Council, program performance measures and program evaluation.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

n/a

IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Launch in September 2007 based on the key criteria and program outlined in Resolution 06-3672B.
- A need for active and ongoing program evaluation is anticipated, including regular Council updates.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Does the Metro Council have enough information to proceed with inviting grant proposals for the Nature in Neighborhood Capital Grants Program in September 2007?

**LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COUNCIL ACTION Yes* No
DRAFT IS ATTACHED Yes No**

* Legislation is required for Council action for Grant Review Committee to be appointed by the Metro Council President and confirmed by the Metro Council.

SCHEDULE FOR WORK SESSION

Department Director/Head Approval _____
Chief Operating Officer Approval _____

METRO COUNCIL

Work Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 7/10/07 Time: Length: 1 hour

Presentation Title: Exploration and framing of conservation education and natural areas maintenance ballot measure

Department: Council

Presenters: Rex Burkholder

(Also list other department personnel or interested parties who have or should be invited & invite them.)

* In all categories, use additional sheets if necessary and attach supporting material.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND (Identify the issue or problem. Include background information on the issue and identify the facts pertinent to your presentation of the topic. Include a statement of any potential issues raised by these facts.)

Residents of the Portland region own some of the most remarkable urban natural areas and parkland in the world. Yet a majority of this land is ecologically threatened, under-maintained for recreational use, or inaccessible to the public. Not only do we need to directly address these issues, but we also need to educate and invite Metro area residents to act as stewards for our region's wealth of natural resources. Outdoor school has traditionally been Oregon's way of introducing children to the joys and science of nature. Currently, many Metro area school districts cannot afford to send their students to outdoor school, and even those that can are struggling to find sources of funding for the program. Furthermore, many parks and natural areas lack sufficient educational programs and activities to engage and educate the people they serve.

The 2006 Natural Areas bond measure that expanded our system of parks and greenspaces was an important victory, but not the end of the story. Now we must ensure that our region's natural areas have adequate funds, as well as a public that is engaged in conservation issues, to properly care for them.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE (List the options available for any actions that may need to be taken, indicating the pros and cons of each. Cost estimates should be included for each option, where applicable.)

Approval of the "Exploration and framing of conservation education and natural areas maintenance ballot measure" Council Project Proposal.

IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS (Please state your departmental suggestions(s) AND the reason(s) for the suggested action. Also include anticipated problems, which will be encountered: a) if the suggestions is implemented, and b) if the suggestion is not implemented.)

A decision by the Council to refer a concept to the voters has a significantly different impact on the agency than if the initiative derives from the citizens of the region. From the drafting of language to stakeholder relations to campaign development, the initiative process would have a much softer impact on current programs. Specific staff impacts are included in the project proposal.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION (Please state clearly your request of the Metro Council. In other words, what do you hope to obtain from the Metro Council. If more than one question, please number them.)

Should the Council approve the “Exploration and framing of conservation education and natural areas maintenance ballot measure” Council Project Proposal?

LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COUNCIL ACTION Yes No
DRAFT IS ATTACHED Yes No

SCHEDULE FOR WORK SESSION (Please initial as appropriate indicating that the material for presentation has been reviewed and is ready for consideration by the Council).

Department Director/Head Approval _____

Chief Operating Officer Approval _____