

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES AND METRO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 25, 2001

Council Annex

Members Present: Councilor Rex Burkholder (Chair), Councilor Carl Hosticka, Councilor Rod Park

Also Present: Councilor Bill Atherton, Councilor Rod Monroe

Chair Burkholder called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 27, 2001, Regional Facilities and Metro Operations Committee meeting were moved by Councilor Hosticka and unanimously approved without revision.

2. Parks Dialogue/Worksession

Those present: Charlie Ciecko, Ron Klein, Deb Scrivens, Jim Desmond, Lupine Hudson, Mel Huie, Jim Morgan and Dan Kromer.

Chair Burkholder explained that the purpose of this department presentation was for the committee members to become familiar with individual Metro departments. An outline had been provided to prompt thoughts and ideas regarding policy issues and challenges which the Council should be made aware of.

Charlie Ciecko, Director, introduced the members from his department which were present. He reviewed the material presented in the meeting packet.

Some highlights of the presentation were:

- ❑ Clarification of trails and open spaces using three maps, with explanations by **Mr. Huie**.
- ❑ Long-range stable funding needs to be addressed.
- ❑ **Mr. Morgan** explained the background information regarding the proposed California Condor Program project at Clear Creek, in partnership with the Oregon Zoo.
- ❑ **Mr. Ciecko** added an omission to Number 6, page 7 of the meeting packet material which was the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) Parks Sub Committee Report, March 14, 2001.

Chair Burkholder opened the meeting to questions.

- ◆ **Chair Burkholder:** Has the Parks Department considered taking a lead role on the building of the Springwater Bridge funded through MTIP, to ensure it is on time and on schedule? **Mr. Ciecko:** His current information is that the City of Portland is assuming the lead. **Chair Burkholder:** He would inquire of Andy Cotugno or Mike Hogle.
- ◆ **Councilor Hosticka:** What is the progress of the MERC/Blue Lake Plan with regard to facility management aspects pertinent to the Parks Department? **Mr. Ciecko:** MERC is currently reviewing the plan submitted to them by the Parks Department.
- ◆ **Chair Burkholder:** Are there strategies for habitat enrichment in highly developed areas? **Mr. Ciecko:** Metro is required to identify opportunities for restoration in areas lacking in natural areas, i.e., brown fields, former gravel pits. **Ms. Scrivens:** Through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grants,

programs are made available, such as supporting the school yard habitat program, and training for teachers. **Mr. Klein:** The urban forest canopy has recently been considered in making linkages to air and water quality. Efforts by Regional Environmental Management in areas such as Natural Gardening, and naturescaping are valuable contributions.

- ◆ **Chair Burkholder:** Did Metro have any cemeteries it could sell? **Mr. Ciecko:** Although Pioneer Cemeteries are arguably not truly consistent with the primary mission of the Parks Department, the opportunity to sell to private industry has evaporated over time. Their historic and cultural significance to the community is very controversial.
- ◆ **Councilor Atherton:** Although the regional trunk trail system is exciting, raising that vision to the public is not appropriate without a fiscal policy plan in place. **Chair Burkholder:** This issue should be deferred to the Natural Resources Committee because it is still in draft mode being worked on.

3. Resolution No. 01-3115, For the Purpose of Confirming the Re-Appointment of Gary Conkling to the Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission.

Mike Burton, Executive Officer, presented the re-appointment of Gary Conkling to the Committee. Mr. Conkling's re-appointment is strongly recommended by Mr. Burton and the Washington County Commission.

Councilor Hosticka moved Resolution No. 01-3115. The Committee unanimously approved it, with Councilor Burkholder carrying it forward to Council.

4. Councilor Communications

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mannhalter
Council Assistant