



METRO

Agenda

MEETING: METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DATE: January 22, 2008
DAY: Tuesday
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Metro Council Chamber

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- | | | |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| 1:00 PM | 1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 24, 2008/ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-sponsor Sustainability Conference | Blosser |
| 1:15 PM | 2. VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE BALLOT INITIATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT | Wheeler |
| 2:00 PM | 3. BREAK | |
| 2:05 PM | 4. CONNECTING GREEN | Cassin/Bebb |
| 3:05 PM | 5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATION | |

ADJOURN

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE BALLOT INITIATIVE
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT**

Metro Council Work Session
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Agenda Item Number 4.0

CONNECTING GREEN

Metro Council Work Session
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
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METRO COUNCIL

Work Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 1-22-2008 Time: 2:05 Length: 1 hour

Presentation Title: Connecting Green

Department: Primarily Parks and Council Office

Presenters: Wetter, Desmond, Cassin, Bebb, Huie,

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

- Elements of Connecting Green and their status
- Update on a proposed Blue Ribbon Committee
- Council discussion of “guiding principles” for trails. Proposed guiding principles:
 - Create a broadly-supported regional strategy for completing trails
 - Determine benefits in the areas of health, recreation and transportation
 - Elevate trails to appropriate status and weight with transportation, recreation and health policymaking and funding
- Request for support from the Council in an integrated, cross-departmental approach to the trails blue ribbon committee that would require support from both the Planning Department and the Parks Department

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The Parks Department has already allocated staff to the Blue Ribbon Committee. Support from the Planning Department would require some re-ordering of priorities. The Council could request that support or choose not to.

IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Much excitement and momentum has been generated for Connecting Green generally and the trails element specifically. Continued Council support allows that momentum to continue. An approach that integrates transportation and recreation puts Metro in the position of modeling the inter-disciplinary approach that we hope to encourage regionally.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Do you support the trails “guiding principles” as written? If not, how should they be modified? What outcomes would you like to see from the Blue Ribbon Committee’s work?

Do you support a cross-departmental approach to staffing the blue ribbon committee?

LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COUNCIL ACTION __Yes __X__No
DRAFT IS ATTACHED __Yes __X__No

Connecting Green

Pre-Work Session Briefing
for the Metro Council
January, 2008

The Challenge

- 50,000 acres of public land is ecologically degraded
- Parks are deteriorating for lack of O&M
- Only 194 out of 900 miles of trail complete

- From the Connecting Green Council Project

The Vision

An exceptional, multi-jurisdictional, interconnected system of neighborhood, community and regional parks, natural areas, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities...

- From the GPAC Vision as adopted by the Metro Council

The Response

“Manifest the vision by giving it **definition** and setting in motion its **implementation.**”

- From the Adopted Council Project

Principles for Implementation

- A regional coalition—bigger than Metro
- Metro's role is convener and launch point
- Use “best practices,” specifically, the Regional Leadership Model
- Create a movement

The Connecting Green Alliance

- NGOs have begun to organize as the Connecting Green Alliance
- Core group has been meeting to develop a business plan
- Connecting Green Alliance launches formally on April 23
- Membership will be open to all

Our Partnership with the NGOs

- Connecting Green *Alliance* is helping to staff the Connecting Green *Initiative*
- Metro's investment of funding and staff is leveraged against similar investments by NGOs
- Example: recent summit at the Lucky Lab

Connecting Green Elements

- Metro and the CG Alliance have defined five initiatives:
 - Communications
 - Trails
 - Regional System
 - Restoration
 - Conservation Education

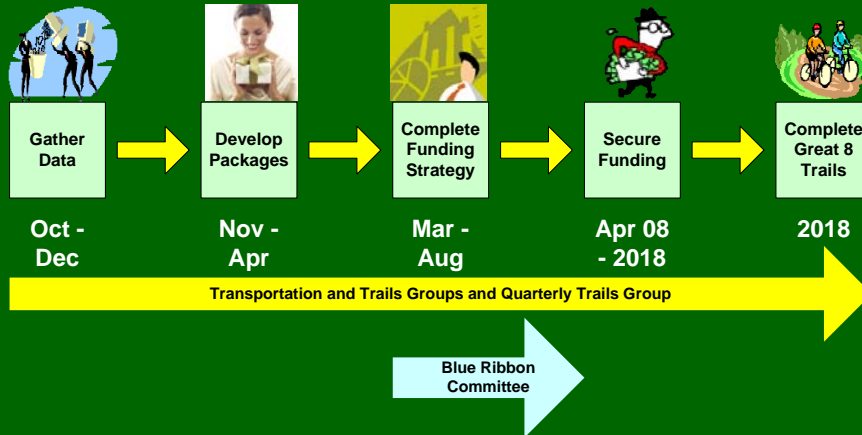
CGA Initial Focus: Communications

- CGA as an *organization* is initially focusing on communications
- CGA *members* continuing to work with Metro on all five elements (trails, restoration...)
- Communications staff from TPL, Audubon, UGI, Metro are now framing communications element
- Open forum discussion planned for February 11th
- Communications element includes measuring and reporting on success

Trails Initiative is Furthest Along

- Metro is helping trails advocates develop trails “packages”
- Proposed Blue Ribbon Committee to meet in March
- Blue Ribbon Committee will create a funding strategy

Trails: Work Plan



Trails: Guiding Principles

- Create a broadly-supported regional strategy for completing trails
- Determine benefits in the areas of health, recreation and transportation
- Elevate trails to appropriate status and weight with transportation, recreation and health policymaking and funding

Trails: Transportation vs. Recreation

- The trails community is divided between transportation planners and parks planners
- Funding also tends to line up according to these silos
- Hence, trails have not been planned and evaluated holistically

Trails: An Integrated Approach

- A primary objective is to integrate health, recreation and transportation perspectives
- Metro would model this integration internally
- This requires transportation and parks staff to work as an integrated team
- We are requesting Council support for this approach

Restoration

- Working with Nature in Neighborhoods staff to frame this element
- Still in its early stages
- May involve working with large mitigators, such as ODOT

Regional System

- Have begun conversations with local parks departments
- First task: define “regional system”
- Regional system may warrant regional funding (regardless of ownership)
- Funding source is yet to be identified
- Likely to force discussion about Metro’s role as a regional parks operator

Conservation Education

- Continuation of work begun by Councilor Burkholder
- No May ballot, but possibly an initiative in the \$2 to \$3 million per year range
- First task: better define full scope of conservation education need and desired outcomes

Objectives for Upcoming Work Session

- Update on progress to date
- Discuss guiding principles for trails (and staffing of blue ribbon committee)
- Address questions and concerns