

## MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 8, 2008  
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Robert Liberty

Councilors Absent: Rex Burkholder (excused), Carl Hosticka (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Jordan, COO, reminded the Council about construction and updates to the Council Chamber. Councilor Harrington appreciated the audio setup of the dais. Councilor Liberty asked about screens for audience view.

### 2. BLUE LAKE NATURE AND GOLF LEARNING CENTER PROJECT

Councilor Park introduced the Blue Lake Nature and Golf Learning Center project. He discussed different uses of the park other than recreational purposes, and opportunities to conserve and protect surrounding wetland areas. He talked about the sizable parcel of land and its dual role as a conservation and recreation facility. He said it was a great community asset as a recreational and natural asset. Mr. Jordan said the first master plan of the project was completed in 2001. He said it was an opportunity to optimize the land, the wildlife habitat, and this was a fiscally sustainable opportunity to enhance the wetlands. He noted various collaborative aspects of the project as well. Councilor Liberty asked if this were an attempt to cover operating deficits of Blue Lake. He said improving water quality and playing golf did not necessarily intuitively connect. He asked about past reasoning. Mr. Jordan discussed the idea of optimizing the park, and gave examples of other optimizing strategies for the park.

Teri Dresler, Deputy Parks Director, said the presentation was an opportunity to ask questions. She introduced various experts and consultants in attendance. She discussed three goals of the project: environmental stewardship, community collaboration, and utilizing the project as an operational investment. She said the project was currently in the concept phase. She discussed different concepts in development and their specifics. She noted this was a strategy to “pump new life into Blue Lake Park.” She said the overall idea was to add the golf facility as an addition and asset to the park, while keeping the park intact. She said the golf facility was intended as a learning experience for all skill levels, as well as a community-building environment.

Jeff Tucker, Parks Finance Manager, talked about different market and feasibility studies completed and various stakeholders involved. He went through financial specifics and the project finance plan and identified different funding sources and revenue streams. Councilor Collette asked about inflation numbers. Councilor Liberty asked if he thought different contingency numbers were adequate for generating revenue. Councilor Liberty asked about the possibility of a golf course improving water quality. Councilor Park talked about pumping water through enhanced wetland areas to create live-flow to aide in increasing water quality, especially during summer months. He also said controlling any run-off from the golf course would require innovative strategies for enhanced and maintained water quality. Ms. Dresler talked about weed growth in the lake. President Bragdon asked how many acres would be devoted to the golf

facility. He asked if half the park would be used for the facility. Ms. Dresler said less than half of the park, and then land “lost” for golf facility use would be compensated with wetland restoration and other projects.

Councilor Harrington commented on the use of drinking water well supply. She said there was an environmental responsibility to replenish any well-water loss. Councilor Collette was excited about the connection to Integrating Habitats and was impressed with how fast the project penciled out. Councilor Liberty said people expected greens to look a certain way, and asked how that meshed with the close proximity to the lake. Lydia Neill, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, said the park would not be overly manicured and various environmental standards would be met. Councilor Liberty asked if the course would be fertilized. Ms. Neill said there would probably have to be fertilizers used. Jim Desmond, Parks Director, explained different strategies for catching fertilizer from entering waterways. Mr. Jordan gave examples of other courses where these techniques were used.

Ms. Neill talked about various Integrating Habitat concepts incorporated into the golf facility project plan. She showed specific concepts incorporated in the visuals presented. Councilor Harrington asked about current operating hours of the park. Parks staff said from about 8 a.m. to dusk. Councilor Liberty talked about the size of different facilities. Councilor Park asked about the functionality of the spray park. Ms. Dresler said it was very successful. President Bragdon said this was interesting because the recession would probably necessitate vacationing closer to home and this was one possibility. He asked about next steps. Ms. Dresler said commitment of funds would be required in the future. Mr. Tucker said they were checking in to gain Council approval to see about moving forward with project work. Councilor Park asked about gaining approval from the City of Portland. Ms. Dresler said that was the next step. Councilor Liberty asked about market research and whether golf was declining as a recreational activity. Mr. Tucker said the majority of market studies suggest that golf will, by percentage, gain increased popularity over time.

### **3. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR OREGON CONVENTION CENTER BUSINESS TO BUSINESS GREEN CONFERENCE**

Jeff Blosser, Oregon Convention Center (OCC) Director, discussed the OCC Business to Business Green Conference. He said this was an opportunity to teach and give back. He said the majority of funds used would be for a meeting planner. Councilor Harrington suggested the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce as an outreach group to contact. Mr. Blosser talked about various stakeholders and stakeholder building strategies. He said he saw the ability to set up a great program into the future. He asked for a \$5,000 donation from Metro.

President Bragdon said he hoped that with Metro’s sponsorship came opportunities for marketing and outreach, representing Metro’s mission and different programs. He said he wanted to be an active agency presence. Mr. Blosser said this could be accommodated.

### **4. BREAK**

### **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(i) AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT RELATED PERFORMANCE OF THE METRO ATTORNEY**

Members Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rod Park, Carlotta Collette, Robert Liberty, Dan Cooper (Metro Attorney), Michael Jordan (COO)

Time Began: 3:25 p.m.

Time Ended: 5:15 p.m.

**6. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen  
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF  
JULY 8, 2008**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Doc. Date</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Doc. Number</b>
2	Agenda	7/8/08	Agenda: Blue Lake Nature and Golf Learning Center Project Briefing, July 8, 2008	070808cw-1
2	Design Visual	7/8/08	Metro, Blue Lake Park, Lake House Events Center graphics, July 8, 2008	070808cw-2