

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 2002
Council Chambers

Present: Susan McLain, Chair, Carl Hosticka, Vice Chair, Rod Park, Bill Atherton arrived at 1:43 p.m.

Absent: David Bragdon (excused)

Chair Susan McLain called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

1. Consideration of the Minutes

August 7, 2002 and September 4, 2002 Natural Resources Committee Meetings

Councilor Park made a motion to approve the minutes. Without changes or additions, the minutes of August 7, 2002 and September 4, 2002 were unanimously approved.

2. Resolution No. 02-3220, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Executive Officer to Establish “The Northern Willamette Valley Habitat Conservation Fund” in Partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Chair McLain stated that a lengthy discussion had been held regarding this legislation at the last meeting and information had been requested, as well as an amendment. Charlie Cieccko, Director, Parks and Open Spaces Department, briefly re-introduced this legislation. He summarized the three issues raised at the last meeting. The investment policies and standards of the foundation that Councilor Atherton had inquired about were addressed in a memo from Jeff Tucker, Finance Manager, Parks and Open Spaces Department, which is attached to and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting. It stated that the funds are not subject to arbitrage rules, and the funds will be invested in safely, securely and consistent with Metro’s policies, as the Foundation’s policy is very conservative and invested in federal government-backed securities.

Also, the agreement was revised on p. 5, under “Amendment and Termination” to indicate that any proposed amendments would be approved by the Metro Council. The composition of the grants committee will include a Metro Council representative. The record will show that this agreement has been reached although not reflected in the written agreement. A typographical error in section 4, page 3, was corrected to Section 8 from Section 6. Councilor Hosticka said that this combined effort for conservation and habitat protection needs to be brought to the public’s attention as it is very significant.

Motion:	Councilor Hosticka moved approval of Resolution No. 02-3220.
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Vote:	The vote was 3 aye/ 0 nay/ 0 abstain and was unanimously approved. Chair McLain will carry the legislation to Council.
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3. Resolution No. 02-3222, For the Purpose of Authorizing the Executive Officer to Purchase a 31-Acre Parcel Owned by the Ramsey Family in the Forest Park Target Area

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(e). DELIBERATIONS WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED TO NEGOTIATE REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS WAS HELD. Executive Session began at 1:25 P.M and ended at 1:42 P.M.

Jim Desmond, Parks and Open Spaces Department, explained this legislation granted approval for the Executive Office to proceed with the purchase of a 31-acre parcel of land currently owned by Logan Ramsey. Since all transactions that exceed the target area of the bond measure need to be presented to the Metro Council, this legislation is before committee for approval. This land is high quality, natural resource land, and after seven years of negotiations has reached conclusion.

Motion:	Councilor Hosticka moved approval of Resolution No. 02-3222.
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Vote:	The vote was 4 aye/0 nay/0 abstain, unanimously approving Resolution No. 02-3222. Councilor Burkholder will carry the legislation to Council.
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4. ETAC (Economic Technical Advisory Committee) Update

Mark Turpel, Manager, Planning Department, provided a brief summary of the last ETAC meeting. Staff was directed to begin the ESEE analysis. A methodology has been started using the 2040 design types with the following adjustments. One is investment in the land and the building; another is the number of jobs at any one location and, the third is wages paid. This way existing employment could be rated. Although that might work for developed lands, vacant lands that have a high building, land and wages, with an adjacent vacant lot close, could be targeted for development. Publicly owned lands typically are assessed at a lower value. Other areas needing consideration are areas like riverfronts (i.e., that have oil depots,) infrastructure costs, and access for transportation. These are the current ETAC discussions regarding methodology. By the next meeting, October 21 this summary would probably be further refined.

Economic and social pieces are important and will be further discussed. Social consequences of protecting and not protecting inventoried resources are important to consider. In this context, "social" means property owners' rights to have personal use of their backyards without interference. A memo which can be found in the meeting packet, discusses the third phase, the program phase, by considering program options such as acquisition from willing sellers, education, incentives and restoration. Program options might consist of voluntary, regulatory and a mix of the two which would be helpful for public discussion, as well as assist in the direction Council would encourage staff to take. Mr. Turpel asked the Committee to provide the direction to staff for the beginning of the program work. Continued dialogue at this committee is anticipated.

5. Regional Greenspaces Planning Update

Chair McLain said this work has been ongoing for years with the latest update in April 2002. She read from the 1992 Original Metropolitan Greenspace Update and Planning document, page 5, explaining this document to be a vision document, not a regulatory document with site specificity. The greenspace system serves passive recreational needs of human, as well as wildlife of the region. This document addressed the development of the acquisition and stewardship programs.

Mr. Cieccko stated his understanding of the purpose of this discussion was to arrive at a time frame for an updated regional greenspaces concept to present to Council. He provided a brief history, summarized in a document entitled Updating the Regional Greenspaces System Concept Map, which is attached to and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting. Working closely with the Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) in 1997, a sub-watershed approach was used as the basis for the planning boundary. Satellite images and computer modeling were used for mapping and identification of natural areas. Changes were detected from the first inventory mapping in 1989, with the loss of 16,000 acres of natural area within that period of time. GTAC has used both ecological and community or social values as criteria. In the Spring of 2000, a public review through public meetings confirmed that ecological factors should be given priority. Those criteria were applied to the model resulting in 200 natural sites within the planning area. In 2001, a number of workshops were held with GTAC, with the planning area divided into sub-regions, and mapping and proposals were developed by local technical advisors. The work was completed in early 2002. Rather than 57 regional natural areas, there are 53, and the draft map documents the progress made in bringing portions of the system into public ownership through Metro's bond measure, as well as local initiatives. The mapped green arrows point out important connections to ecologically significant areas that comprise the rural landscape.

The document entitled Draft September 18, 2002 Regional Greenspaces System Concept Map, which is attached to and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting, summarizes update effort from the inception of the masterplan. Most importantly, it identifies what the updated system map is not. It is not a regulatory or land use document for the region. Heather Nelson Kent reviewed a Powerpoint presentation which is attached to and incorporated into the permanent record of this meeting. This presentation would be very helpful for park boards, local governments or city councils who might want to review this work and see what the next steps might be. Parks and greenspaces contribute amenities to our community by strengthening the economy, defining communities and protecting the environment. The next step would be to obtain local government endorsements, researching the need for public review, approval by the Metro Council, and finally, an implementation program. Chair McLain added that the companion piece, the trails system, was passed in July 2002 which represents 50% of the update. Our local partners have already asked for copies of the updated map, and that Metro provide speakers.

Timeline/Components

Chair McLain said the proposed schedule in the packet was a worst case scenario, and asked for a clearer timeline. Mr. Cieccko said the local government endorsements are the most time consuming to obtain. Chair McLain commented that it might be best to finish it before January when new electeds may take office, since so much work has been accomplished with the current electeds. She will provide Mr. Cieccko time on any future agenda for regular updates. She said she was looking for a December completion date. Councilor Park said the local jurisdictions need to do their part first. Both Chair McLain and Councilor Park agreed that they wanted it done correctly. Mr. Cieccko said it is a priority for his department.

Office of General Counsel Comment

The memo from Mr. Cooper will be discussed at the next meeting due to the time constraints of two committee members.

Councilor Communications

None.

Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Mannhalter
Committee Clerk

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2002

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	TO/FROM	DOCUMENT NUMBER
2.	9/9/2002	Memorandum re: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Investment Policies	TO: Charlie Cieccko FROM: Jeff Tucker	091802.01
5.		Updating the Regional Greenspaces System Concept Map		091802.02
5.	9/18/2002	Draft Regional Greenspaces System Concept Map		091802.03
5.		PowerPoint entitled: Building a Metropolitan Greenspaces Legacy		091802.04
5.	9/16/2002	Memo re: Use of Term Definition of "Regionally Significant" in the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan	TO: Councilor Susan McLain, Chair Natural Resources Committee FROM: Dan Cooper Office of General Counsel	091802.05
	Various	Responses to emails and postcards received both supporting and opposing Metro's fish and wildlife work and requesting placement on informational mailing list	TO: Interested Citizens FROM: Chair Susan McLain	091802.06