

GREENSPACES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 22, 2004

Metro Regional Center, Room 501

Minutes

Committee members present: Chair Jim Zehren, Ernie Drapela, Faun Hosey, Esther Lev, Mike Ragsdale, Tim Raphael and Zari Santner. In attendance via speakerphone: Mike Houck.

Committee members absent: Kim Gilmer, Steve Greagor, John Griffiths, Doug Neeley, Chris Noble, Dick Schouten and Don Trotter.

Metro Parks staff present: Jim Desmond, Heather Kent and Patricia Sullivan

Other Metro staff present: Kate Marx, Metro Public Affairs Director

Convene

The meeting was called to order by Jim Zehren, Chair, at 5:35 pm.

Comments from Metro CCI and guests

None

Items for "the good of the order"

- GPAC letter to parks supporters dated April 15, 2004

Mr. Zehren referred to a letter, signed by him as GPAC Chair, sent April 15 to a group of people having expressed an interest in Parks and Greenspaces over the years. It announced the creation of GPAC, provided a list of Committee members and a copy of the draft Work Plan; it also encouraged citizen participation.

- New appointment

Ernie Drapela announced that Robb Courtney is the newly appointed Parks and Recreation Manager for the city of Gresham. Mr. Courtney was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a conflict with Gresham's budget kick-off meeting.

Items from Metro Council/MPAC/JPACT

- Mr. Zehren requested all proceedings of Metro Council, MPAC and JPACT relevant to Parks and Greenspaces be tracked by Parks staff as well as requests and questions to be referred to GPAC.
- Mike Houck introduced the topic of Metro's proposed budget which is being discussed at Council. He e-mailed his comments to the Committee on the excise tax proposal and on the question of whether GPAC should weigh in on the issue. He understood there was a consensus that (at this early stage of GPAC's existence) it was not appropriate for GPAC to do so. On an issue of this importance, he was not sure he agreed. At a minimum, he is hopeful individual members will submit their comments, if unable to attend the hearings.

- In Jim Desmond's April 1 memo regarding the Metro Parks and Greenspaces budget proposal the schedule of remaining public hearings was included: Tuesday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m. at Metro Council and Thursday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. at Hillsboro City Hall. The Council vote on the budget will take place at the Hillsboro meeting. Mr. Zehren suggested Committee members or their agencies may want to consider weighing in on this issue.

Approval of minutes for GPAC meetings of February 26 and March 25

The minutes of both meetings were approved (six in favor, none in opposition, no abstentions).

In the last paragraph of the February 26, 2004 minutes, Mr. Houck referred to GPAC having a need for a mechanism to interface with other organizations such as U. S. Fish and Wildlife. Although it was indicated that will likely be one of the subjects on the proposed Work Plan, it was not specifically referred to in the draft version. Mr. Houck asked that that be noted in the minutes. Mr. Zehren responded that he and staff will try to determine how those kind of logistics can be dealt with before the next meeting.

Proposed GPAC By-Laws

Although less than half of the Committee was present, it was decided to proceed with a discussion of the proposed by-laws. Questions and comments were solicited.

- Zari Santner requested the roster of Committee members and their terms. (Note: One of the items included with a memo from Heather Nelson Kent mailed to Committee members on January 27, 2004 was a copy of Resolution No. 04-3411. Exhibit A to that resolution was the list of GPAC appointees, a brief description of their parks backgrounds and the length of term they are to serve.) Prior to the May meeting, these materials will also be e-mailed to Committee members.
- It was suggested by Mike Ragsdale that Article IV, Section 3 dealing with the definition of "quorum" be altered to include commas after the word "committee" in the first line and after "meeting" in the second line to avoid confusion. The draft of the proposed by-laws will now read: "A majority of the members of the Committee, present or otherwise properly participating in a meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of committee business."
- In reviewing the fifth point listed under Article II, Section 2 - "Purpose", Mr. Houck questioned whether GPAC is free to bring up issues that are not referred by Metro Council. He proposed having an understanding among Committee members and staff that they have the "moral authority", if not the "resolution authority", to pursue issues considered important. Mr. Zehren suggested the Committee do what it considers in the public interest, having credible arguments based on one or more of the five points of Article II, Section 2 and proceed unless and until advised that GPAC does not have the authority to do so.

The GPAC By-Laws will be discussed again at the May meeting.

Proposed 2004 GPAC Work Plan

- Meeting schedule, length

Mr. Zehren sought the Committee's reaction to meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. once a month as opposed to a shorter meeting twice a month. The consensus was that once a month was preferable.

- Meeting "dinner"

The issue of providing food for Committee members during the meetings was also discussed. Jim Desmond reported that there are no funds budgeted for such expenses and it is generally the policy for the agency not to do so. Mr. Zehren requested Pat Sullivan, of the Parks administrative staff, e-mail Committee members as to their preference. Suggestions include providing: 1) No food, 2) snacks and beverages, 3) light dinner or 4) members bring their own "brown bag". In the case of option 2) or 3), members would reimburse Metro for the cost or pay periodically into a meal fund.

- Possible topics

Topics for meetings in April 2004 through November 2004 (excluding August) as outlined in the draft Work Plan were reviewed by Mr. Zehren.

- Committee comments and questions

- What is the vision of the committee?
- Discussion and decision on a "regional system" for parks and greenspaces (as outlined for the November meeting) have previously been dealt with extensively. GTAC, in particular, considered at length "what is 'the system'/what is meant by 'the system.' "
- There remain substantive issues to be dealt with, but the process can be sped up. An effort to condense some of the steps outlined in the Work Plan and to get to the policy questions and concerns that were laid out by Council as soon as possible is advisable.
- In the reference to a "regional system" in the Work Plan, the term "new regional system" could be substituted, since clearly a great deal of work has already been done. There is an unresolved question of whether it is necessary to evolve to a different kind of regional system.
- What is Metro's role in terms of developing policy on all parks and recreation facilities?
- Is this Committee going to play a role in developing Metro policies for the entire open space system including recreation?
- Could the policies serve as guidelines and a framework for local jurisdictions to meet the need of their communities?
- How do the Regional Parks fit in that context?
- The ordinance creating GPAC made it clear that this committee cannot make any recommendations directly to the Metro Council that have any land use ramifications without first going through MPAC for its approval.

Mr. Desmond introduced Kate Marx, Metro Director of Public Affairs to the Committee.

Notes for "housekeeping"

- It was suggested that it may be productive to arrange a "vision quest" perhaps with the assistance of a facilitator. Opinions differed between holding a half day or a whole day session.
- A group consisting of Ernie Drapela, Zari Santner and Mike Ragsdale volunteered to participate in a conference call with Mr. Zehren and Mr. Desmond next week to discuss revisions to the Work Plan and planning for committee retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.