

# **Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee**

James A. Zehren, Chair



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## **MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, August 26, 2004  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501  
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

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Committee members present: Chair Jim Zehren, Ernie Drapela, Steve Greagor, Faun Hosey, Mike Houck, Esther Lev, Doug Neeley, Mike Ragsdale, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten, Jill Zanger

Committee members absent: Kim Gilmer (Lisa Hamerlynck attended in her place), John Griffiths, Don Trotter, Thanh Vu

Metro staff present: Heather Kent, Lia Waiwaiole

Guests: Lisa Hamerlynck

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## **Convene**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Zehren at 5:35 p.m.

## **Comments from Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement and guests**

None

## **Items for the good of the order**

Jim Zehren reported that he recently attended a presentation about Barcelona that was very inspiring. He hoped that other members would have a chance to attend these kinds of presentations in the future and noted one that was potentially scheduled for Sept. 22 with the planning director of Melbourne, Australia.

He also reported that he had been having some discussions with Kim Gilmer about the Parks Forum group and that they are seeking to have an informal conversation with GPAC members to share information and discuss potential overlap and/or mutual goals. He asked for advice from the group about how best to proceed. He offered a few ideas

including a few members of GPAC scheduling a breakfast or lunch with a few of them or inviting some of their delegation to come to a GPAC meeting.

The group discussed the potential for the group which is a self-selected group of park and greenspace professionals to be advocates for the work and vision of GPAC. There was general agreement that a new GTAC and/or advocacy group may both be needed but that it still may be too early to tell what the best roles and relationships might be.

Heather Kent stated that both she and Kim Gilmer sit on the planning committee for the Parks Forums and there is a lot of information sharing with them about the activities and direction of GPAC to date.

### **Items from Metro Council/MPAC/JPACT**

None

### **Vision statement**

The committee thoroughly reviewed a new draft of the vision statement prepared by Metro staff. The following changes were requested:

- adding back the word "equitably" to the first paragraph
- including Vancouver in the geographic scope of the vision statement
- adding the phrase "ecological health" to the first paragraph
- adding the notion that the system will be near the places where people work (as well as where they live)
- adding "promotes an ecologically sustainable metropolitan region" to the bulleted list

Metro staff was asked to redraft and circulate a new version of the vision before the next meeting.

### **Work plan**

Committee members reviewed a draft work plan prepared by Metro staff and discussed possible strategies for implementing the vision.

Committee members were in agreement that they needed to have a better sense of the current state of parks, greenspaces and recreation opportunities in the region before they could recommend changes or goals.

Several members cautioned against use of the words like "gaps" or "deficiencies" when talking about assessing current levels of service. They suggested that GPAC focus on opportunities for growth, instead. They also pointed out that each local jurisdiction has its own level of service standards and system plans (many of them formalized and adopted) and that each jurisdiction has its own limitations in terms of funding and community support for parks.

Committee members thought it would be helpful to look at these local level of service standards and system plans and important to work closely with local jurisdictions in any analysis of regional level of service. Some members also thought that a region-wide inventory of parks and facilities would be helpful.



Metro staff were asked to take a stab at identifying the regional system and defining facilities and amenities and pulling together existing inventory data and possibly analysis tools for the committee to consider.

The committee also discussed whether it was time to consider putting together a technical group to assist with some of this work. There was general agreement that GPAC and Metro staff would most likely need this kind of assistance in the near future.

### **Park SDC's**

Heather Kent briefed the committee about the potential of legislative changes to park system development charges (SDC's). The committee decided that they would like to get more information about any legislation being proposed and think about a possible role they could play.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**