

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee

James A. Zehren, Chair



METRO

MEETING NOTES

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Committee members present: Chair Jim Zehren, Ernie Drapela, Kim Gilmer, John Griffiths, Faun Hosey, Mike Houck, Esther Lev, Mike Ragsdale, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten

Committee members absent: Steve Greagor, Doug Neeley, Don Trotter, Jill Zanger

Metro staff and elected officials present: David Bragdon, Jim Desmond, Nancy Chase, Heather Nelson Kent, Lia Waiwaiole

Guests: Steve Durrant, Chris Carlson, Mairi Caughey

Convene

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

Acquisition bond measure presentation

Jim Desmond explained that the Metro Council has passed a resolution about its fish and wildlife habitat protection program that commits to pursuing a bond measure for acquisition in 2006. He introduced Nancy Chase from Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department to offer a summary of the process used to develop the last acquisition bond measure and an overview of the work underway to date to prepare for the 2006 measure.

When an earlier bond measure for acquisition failed, one of the lessons learned was that voters felt the measure was too vague. For the 1995 measure, Metro and its partners developed and communicated the outcomes of the measure in very specific detail – beginning with the Greenspaces Master Plan map, working through several review phases and arriving at the target areas that became the foundation of the program. The process included extensive public involvement, a blue ribbon committee and a policy advisory committee along with significant technical work. The local share component was also laid

out in detail. After the measure passed, more than 100 public meetings were held to refine the target areas.

Work on the 2006 measure is already underway. Nancy has begun meeting with key stakeholders to get some initial input.

The committee discussed how it might help shape the content of the measure and support its passage. While it is early in the process in some ways, members recognized that they would need to act quickly in order to influence both the process and the substance of the measure.

Members were in agreement that while they felt it was important to be involved in the bond measure, they did not want to be distracted from rest of their work. The committee wants to focus on the continued development of its region-wide vision, outcomes and strategies.

Metro Council update

Council President David Bragdon delivered an update on recent developments at Metro. The council has recently completed a strategic plan for the agency, which has never been done before at Metro. President Bragdon told GPAC that two of the goals identified in the process that received the most unanimous support from all of the councilors were natural resource protection and environmental education.

President Bragdon also reported that as of Sept. 1, money for parks started flowing in from the \$1.50 per ton and work was well underway to implement the programs and services related to that new money. He also wanted GPAC to know about some reorganization going on at Metro, in the Parks department and in other areas, to reflect the new strategic thinking at the agency. One of the effects is an elevation of science in our parks and greenspaces work. In general, the changes are to improve effectiveness and efficiency in our approach to this work at Metro and in the region.

GPAC in 2005

In the new year, Mike Ragsdale will serve as GPAC chair. Jim Zehren will continue to serve on the committee, as will all the other existing members except for Doug Neeley who's term on the Oregon City city council has ended. Doug's GPAC position, representing cities or park districts in the southern part of the region, will be filled by new West Linn city councilor Scott Burgess. The other vacancy, a citizen member position, will be filled by Betty Atteberry, former director of the Westside Economic Alliance.

The committee discussed how to work together more effectively. Several members questioned whether meeting once per month would be sufficient to tackle the work that the committee is hoping to accomplish. Mike Ragsdale said he was considering proposing a task force or subcommittee approach, which might mean that the entire committee would still only meet once per month, but that smaller groups might convene in the meantime. However GPAC decides to proceed, Mike told the group that he expects that they will all begin to spend more time on the committee's work in the new year.

President Bragdon also responded to comments from the committee about the need for more staff time dedicated to GPAC's work. Metro is currently pursuing contracted professional services to provide additional support for the committee.

Outcomes and objectives discussion

The committee reviewed and discussed the compiled list of outcomes for the seven objectives identified in the GPAC vision. The outcomes were written by several individual committee members since the November meeting and presented as an unabridged list for the committee's review. (The list of "objectives and outcomes" will accompany this record.)

GPAC asked staff to rewrite the seven sections, consolidating all the outcome statements, and give them to committee members to review. Individual committee members were assigned to each topic. Staff agreed to submit the new drafts to the committee in early January; the committee agreed to make their comments by Friday the 21st in time for a new draft of the document to be circulated before the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.