

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee

Mike Ragsdale, Chair



MEETING NOTES

Thursday, Feb. 24
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Committee members present: Chair Mike Ragsdale, Betty Atteberry, Kim Gilmer, John Griffiths, Faun Hosey, Esther Lev, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten, Don Trotter

Committee members absent: Scott Burgess, Ernie Drapela, Steve Greagor, Mike Houck, Jill Zanger, Jim Zehren

Elected officials, staff and guests present: Chris Carlson, Jim Desmond, Metro Councilor Carl Hosticka, Heather Nelson Kent, Chris Prescott, Bob Sallinger, Mary Wahl, Lia Waiwaiole, Malu Wilkinson

Bond measure update

Jim Desmond presented an update on the process to develop a regional bond measure for 2006. Metro parks staff has met with the Metro Council in special work sessions to discuss the bond measure, provide information to the council and get further clarification and direction. In response to questions raised by GPAC at previous meetings, Jim said that the council made it clear that they do not necessarily intend for the bond measure to be exclusively for habitat and that it could include other things, particularly through a local share component. Jim emphasized that council is early in their decision-making process and offered the following overview of their discussions so far.

Possible bond measure elements being discussed:

- Acquisition of habitat properties
- Restoration (could include public and private lands, if possible, and grants to community groups)
- Trail corridors (could include funds to build in addition to acquisition)
- Local share (may be used as an incentive for governments to adopt their own habitat protection program)
- Challenge grants for acquisition (a 50 percent match for opportunistic projects with strong local support)

- Stream habitat protection easement fund (where Metro might acquire a streamside property, restore it, place a conservation easement on it and then re-sell)
- Revolving loan fund for local governments
- Other broader possibilities including affordable housing, arts, transportation, the zoo and conservation programs.

Process:

- GPAC will play a central role, as will the parks forum, mayors, MPAC and the community. Jim said that the council hopes that GPAC will take on the bond measure as one of their tasks – advise the council on the components, help get it vetted in the community, assist with public outreach, etc.
- Public polling will also be a tool used to inform the scope and focus of the bond measure.
- The council hopes to create a proposed measure by August 2005 and refine and finalize it by December 2005.

Councilor Hosticka commented that although there is some division among the councilors about the “other aspects” of the bond measure, they are all solid about open space acquisition. He also reminded the committee that the formal impetus came from a Metro Council resolution about fish and wildlife habitat protection.

The committee discussed some potential challenges in terms of other funding measures and levies that could be on the ballot at the same time. Members also discussed a need to engage and involve the public and the parks and greenspaces community in these decisions. The committee agreed to spend more time discussing the bond measure at the March meeting.

Outcomes and objectives discussion

Mike Ragsdale and Chris Carlson presented a new version of the “vision, objectives, outcomes and means” document that arranges the information in a matrix. The committee reviewed the matrix section by section and made comments about ways to refine it. Chris and Mike will send a new draft at least a week before the next meeting so that it can be finalized. (Both drafts will be part of this record.)

Task forces

Mike Ragsdale proposed that the committee form task forces for each objective in order to further develop the work plan. The task forces would each include at least one GPAC member and invite a number of other people knowledgeable about the topic area to be involved. He also proposed that a subcommittee be formed to specifically focus on the bond measure. Committee members discussed the concept and Mike said he would bring a more specific proposal to the next meeting.