

**Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee**  
**Mike Ragsdale, Chair**

**MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, July 27, 2006  
5:30 – 7:30 PM  
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501  
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR

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Committee members present: Chair Mike Ragsdale, Scott Burgess, Ernie Drapela, Kim Gilmer, John Griffiths, Mike Houck, Sue Marshall, Linda Robinson, Zari Santner and Dick Schouten

Committee members absent: Mike Livingston, Tim Raphael, Mike Sykes and Dan Zinzer

Elected officials, staff and guests present: Ian Sinks and Glenn Lamb of the Columbia Land Trust, Jim Desmond, Heather Kent, Jim Morgan, Pat Sullivan and Jeff Tucker

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Chair Mike Ragsdale called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Update**

Chair Ragsdale updated the committee on the GPAC status report he presented to Metro Council on June 27 at the Hillsboro Civic Center. He noted that Council showed the greatest interest in the finance material and was very supportive and enthused about the direction in which GPAC is headed. They appreciate the quarterly presentation of GPAC's progress and are happy to set aside time once a quarter to continue that practice.

Mike Houck gave an update on the Natural Areas, Parks and Streams Campaign.

**Presentation – Columbia Land Trust**

Ian Sinks and Glenn Lamb of the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) were invited to speak to GPAC at tonight's meeting. Mike Houck met with Glenn some months ago to learn what the trust is doing currently and has accomplished to date. Mike expressed a long-standing concern, however, that there has not been enough "cross-river" (Columbia) conversation about the regional system.

Glenn provided background on the trust for the committee. In the United States currently there are over 1,500 land trusts preserving millions of acres of conservation lands. Glenn spoke of the fact that growing land trusts' capacity can help the effort to develop the regional system. CLT has been around for 15 years and serves 12 counties along the Columbia River in both Oregon and Washington – the Pacific Coast and estuary, the more developed mid-River area, the Columbia Gorge and the eastern Cascade watersheds.

In the last year, highlights of CLT's efforts include conserving more than 500 acres at seven sites for a new total of 7,000 acres in land conserved, receiving \$1.7 million in grant funding for conservation and restoration work and providing stewardship and restoration services to 4,500 acres of critical habitat. In 2006 the CLT is building on partnerships developed with

government, foundations, other non-profits, donors and landowners. In the future, the CLT anticipates the conservation of tens of thousands of acres of the most critical natural resource lands and the protection of the last remaining significant greenspaces in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. Glenn also referred to the Three Rivers Land Conservancy, which is working exclusively in the Portland area and has been growing its capacity as well.

Glenn concluded by summarizing what CLT can do.

- The CLT can support the 2006 Bond Measure; the board will be asked for their support at their next meeting. Between now and then, Glenn added, he will look at their budget to see if they can offer some funding for the campaign.
- The CLT intends to support the capacity of the Three Rivers Land Conservancy and to find creative ways to work with them as the land trust organization that is leading the effort in the Metro area.
- CLT would like to help at the statewide level in Oregon. Some of the biggest issues faced in Oregon are statewide issues especially when compared with Washington State. Washington gives \$50 million every biennium for parks and wildlife projects. Oregon doesn't have that kind of statewide support.
- CLT hopes to energize a Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts that can begin to create and support statewide service centers.

Discussion by the committee included suggestions for Metro to invite "non-usual suspects" to participate, to look for other ways to engage people and employ different tools and messages. Chair Ragsdale told Glenn and Ian that GPAC's program is to identify/characterize the components of the system, both natural areas and habitat and also more active areas of parks and to develop a long-range vision and strategy of how to get there. Mike Houck added that it's critical to have an active, cooperative working relationship with land trusts such as CLT.

### **Update/Activity – System Mapping for Natural Resources**

Mike Houck displayed a System map that was a composite of the 3 separate maps which were the product of the June 20 charette. The new map displayed areas which have special significance from an ecological perspective, or were areas having great opportunity for restoration. Also displayed were trail connectors between anchor sites and areas under threat of land conversion. The composite map is still being updated and revised. Some of the other sources of input are The Nature Conservancy's priority map, consultants for the New Look as well as New Look staffers, the Oregon Farm Bureau, David Hulse of U of O, and Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

Mike emphasized that it is not the purpose of the System to develop a regulatory program nor is the plan to buy every acre identified. It was pointed out, however, that the land that is identified in the System will meet the goals of the GPAC Vision adopted by Metro Council.

Mike also pointed out that the current map does not address cultural resources or, for the most part, the issue of view corridors or scenic quality. It was suggested that drinking watersheds be added to the list of areas being identified. How things are depicted or interpreted on the map can be an issue having a big impact on people's perception. Committee members were invited to go over the displayed maps closely and to add their input.

It was explained that some of the System work had been delayed by the absence of Jennifer Budhabhatti who was in a very serious accident at the end of June and in intensive care for weeks before being transferred to a rehabilitation and care facility in SE Portland. Committee

members asked if they could help in any way. Jim Desmond explained that everything possible is being done for her now. Pat Sullivan will e-mail the committee with information on a group web site they can sign onto for current messages about Jennifer's condition and the mailing address of the care center where cards and notes may be sent.

Kim Gilmer reported that there had been no parks directors' meeting since the last GPAC meeting, but Kim did meet with Heather Kent to discuss the continuation of the System work. Kim said a potential timeline had been set to meet with the parks directors group for a one-day, 3-4 hour meeting at the end of September to discuss issues such as level of service, etc. This was thought to be more productive than holding several shorter meetings over an extended period of time.

Lydia Neill, Principal Planner, currently working for Metro Planning Dept. will be transferring to the Parks Dept. and will assist with GPAC projects such as the mapping of local jurisdictions' master plans. Park providers have been asked to submit their master / management / comprehensive plans which are being transposed to map format. By the end of August the maps will be sent to the local jurisdictions for review and determination of their accuracy. They will be asked to make revisions and re-submit them after which a new set of maps will be created and reviewed prior to the September meeting with the parks directors. What will be most difficult to "map" are future park plans.

Zari Santner discussed potential commonalities between jurisdictions – what are minimum levels of service that can be agreed upon as a starting point for everyone.

Jennifer's original five categories of the system included: 1) nature parks, 2) community / neighborhood parks, 3) recreational facilities, 4) special recreation parks and open spaces and 5) regional and local trails. Revisions may yet be made to those categories. Kim noted that the more things that can be mapped, the more accurate and complete will be the display of the system. Kim will provide a status report at the August meeting.

### **Presentation – GPAC Finance Report – Part II – Potential New Funding Sources**

Metro Parks Finance Manager, Jeff Tucker, presented this report which is predominantly the culmination of the research he and the Metro staff did over the last couple of months. Part II divides potential new funding sources into two categories:

- Those thought, on a staff level, to be viable sources
- Those likely to be more difficult to attain

In terms of viability the questions are:

- Does this revenue source generate enough funding to address needs being discussed
- Would it require state law changes

***See attached final version of Part II of the report.***

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

The next GPAC meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2006.