

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

**MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, September 28, 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, Kim Gilmer, Faun Hosey, Mike Houck, Sue Marshall, Linda Robinson, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten and Dan Zinzer

Committee members absent: Ernie Drapela, John Griffiths, Mike Livingston, Tim Raphael and Mike Sykes

Elected officials, staff and guests present: Council President David Bragdon, Jim Desmond, Heather Kent, Lydia Neill and Pat Sullivan

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

**Updates**

Lydia Neill, was introduced to the Committee as a Metro Principal Regional Planner, new to the Parks Dept., but having worked many years with the Planning Dept. She will be providing her expertise and experience in support of the GPAC.

**November / December Meeting Date**

To avoid conflicts with upcoming holidays, and following precedent set in past years, it was agreed to cancel the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday meetings in November and December and instead combine them into one meeting on Thursday, December 14.

**Review and Discussion of GPAC Work Plan**

Lydia, who pulled together the list of planned projects and produced the GPAC Work Plan, led the Committee through the various groups of tasks planned over the next six months. Those included: Systems Plan Map; Summary Master Plan Map; Natural Systems Map; Gap Analysis; Develop Systems Delivery Strategy; Plan Parks Summit; Parks Summit; GPAC Meetings through March 2007 and Provide Recommendations to Metro Council.

Chair Mike Ragsdale noted that the work plan is based on decisions already made by the Committee and includes finishing up the work with the Parks Directors' group led by Kim Gilmer, Zari Santner and Dan Zinzer. This work needs to be tied in with the work produced by Mike Houck's Systems Group and a gap analysis. The work plan schedule calls for the work from this task group (Systems Plan Map) to be nearing completion by the end of October. Mike R. asked if a report could be ready for the October meeting.



Zari's Parks Directors' group had identified early on the need for a "convening" which has developed into a Parks Summit planned for March 2007. Heather Kent spoke of developing a "FIND-A-PARK" tool to be used region-wide and of the hope of launching it at the Summit. Mike H. brought up the question of whether Clark County/Vancouver will be included in the region-wide parks inventory. He also mentioned that it was his opinion that they be represented on GPAC. Mike R. said he would discuss this issue with President Bragdon and come back with a recommendation at the next meeting.

Lydia reported that work is beginning on a summary of all the master plans that the local jurisdictions have adopted (Summary Master Plan Map). The map is in progress and once she has a draft, it will be brought to the Committee and the local jurisdictions for review. Zari suggested that the material to be reviewed by the jurisdictions be sent to both the Directors and the planners. The Chair asked if a status report on the summary could be ready by the October GPAC meeting and possibly finalized by the December meeting.

An important step in the process is the work being done on the Natural Systems Map, which Mike H. has been working on extensively. There has been a significant change in the map since it was displayed at the last meeting. It has been generally conceded that plan view maps are not necessarily the best way to convey information, at least early on in the process. It was decided a different technique or methodology might be better used to convey the big concepts. Five different maps were drawn of five different perspectives of the region. A new product was created from that merging which can more clearly show relationships such as those between natural resource lands, urban centers and agricultural lands. Lydia is attempting to develop a digital version of the map.

Mike R. asked to have a display of everything done so far at the October meeting. He also suggested Committee members arrive at the regular meeting start time (5:30 p.m.) and review the maps and materials on display and then actually sit down and begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mike H. commented that Jim Morgan, Matthew Hampton and Lydia have been doing excellent work on this project allowing it to move forward in a timely manner. This staff support has been critical, he said, and the Committee, on its own, could not have produced such work. Lydia added that this information is also very useful for the New Look, which will be updating the region's long-range plan and dealing with projections for future growth.

Lydia referred to the work yet to be done on Gap Analysis which will compare Systems Plans with Master Plans and project the amount of park service which is anticipated to be provided in the communities but which is not funded. The work will be started soon; the schedule calls for review by GPAC in January and for the work to be wrapped up by February.

A Systems Delivery Strategy is to be developed and is the next group of tasks that was discussed in the Work Plan. This will consider the kind of gaps that are being seen throughout the region; and whether there are particular places that are more park-deficient than others; the types of parks and then match that with a financial strategy. Mike R. said as the Committee moves to review this product, it will start making policy recommendations that include making value decisions and prioritizing.

The discussion moved to Plan the Parks Summit. Lydia described this as finishing up the technical work that was started and bringing it together so that that information can be used in discussions with people throughout the region. The Committee will be asked to help create a stakeholders list. The event is being seen as a culmination of the Committee's work over the last several years combined with the results of the November Bond Measure and an attempt to set a course of action for the upcoming years. Mike R. said it will be important for the



Committee to walk into the Summit with some suggested direction but letting everyone know it will be a collaborative process.

### **Staff Update on Coordination with the New Look**

Lydia reported that the plan is to align the work that the Committee has done and has in progress with the work of the New Look staff, which will be taking a comprehensive view of the region, including everything from transportation issues to urban/agricultural interface. They will be relying greatly on the Natural Systems and the Parks Systems work of the Committee. The goal is to make the work of the Committee available to the New Look staff and to make sure that enough information is included to help move the New Look forward. Mike R. suggested there might be places where this Committee should give input to the New Look process. He asked Mike H. to watch for those items which seem most appropriate for GPAC to give input on. Written material needs to be provided to the Committee about the subject matter to know what New Look issues may be appropriate for the Committee to comment on. Mike H. said there are some issues relating to green infrastructure and parks.

### **Update on System Mapping Project**

This agenda item was reviewed during the Work Plan discussion. Lydia noted, however, she had not heard from all local jurisdictions yet and will be contacting local staff again and may defer to Committee members for assistance, if necessary.

### **Discuss Park Summit**

For participation at the summit, which will likely take place in March 2007, Mike R. spoke of three levels of people that need to be considered for invitation:

- 1) Those that **must be present** at the summit – e.g. citizen activists, professionals, “GTAC-types”, chair/executive directors of friends groups. Those people must be identified and recruited. Their presence is mandatory for the success of the summit.
- 2) Those that **ought to be present** – e.g. board members of friends groups, Metro’s volunteer list. Their presence is not mandatory to the success of the summit, but it is important that they be informed and invited to it.
- 3) The **larger audience** that are likely to come on their own.

Mike H. considers it important to invite a wide variety of participants, beyond the parks and greenspaces and trail advocates; it should include those involved with sustainability, architects, stormwater managers, etc. It is important to expand the “must be present” people. Jim Desmond said that in discussions with him, David Bragdon expressed a desire to use the summit as an opportunity to build a broader coalition.

Lydia spoke of the opportunity for the summit to share some of the technical information that has been gathered during the GPAC “Work Plan” process with a wider audience. It can also be an opportunity to start strategic discussions about ways to address the shortfalls that have been identified during that same process and also discuss optimization of operations/ maintenance and service provision for the region. Further, it can provide an opportunity to discuss connections between the parks system and the other infrastructure within the community.



Additional discussion included a site for the summit, logistics for 2 or 3 meetings, a name for the summit, a public involvement component, possible keynote speakers, a post summit meeting, a post-summit report, etc. Mike R. said there will be a summit sub-committee convened to brainstorm about the participants and another sub-committee (or the same if they choose to address both issues) will think about the content of the summit itself. Committee members who initially expressed an interest in participating in the sub-committee(s) included Mike Houck, Linda Robinson and Dick Schouten. Staff will notify the Committee of arrangements for the sub-committee meeting(s) as soon as they are made.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next GPAC meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2006.