

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

MEETING NOTES

Thursday, October 26, 2006
5:30 – 7:30 PM
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 501
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR

Committee members present: Chair Mike Ragsdale, Ernie Drapela, Kim Gilmer, Faun Hosey, Mike Houck, Mike Livingston, Sue Marshall, Linda Robinson, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten, Mike Sykes and Dan Zinzer

Committee members absent: Scott Burgess, John Griffiths and Tim Raphael

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

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

Updates

Mike Houck reported on the status of the campaign for Measure 26-80 for Natural Areas and Clean Water. Election Day is November 7.

Jim Desmond, speaking on behalf of Council President David Bragdon, wanted to plant a seed of an idea he has been pursuing on his own and may bring to GPAC at a future date. An organization called Ziba Design contacted David recently expressing an interest in the work GPAC is doing to initiate a discussion of a regional park system. They suggested that their methods and approach could be an effective tack to use in this endeavor. A number of Committee members, familiar with Ziba's work, expressed initial enthusiasm for the idea.

Update on Subcommittee Work

Chair Ragsdale altered the order of the agenda items so that the update on the work plan subcommittees was presented first. On display at the meeting were maps and drawings which committee members were invited to view up close and familiarize themselves with, make note of any discrepancies and ask questions. A 25-minute period was set aside at the beginning of the meeting for that purpose. Lydia Neill provided an explanation of the products (the various maps) their status and significance.

The maps produced at this point were the System. Plan Maps and the Summary Master Plan Map. Perspective drawings were also viewed which were created in large part to assist the New Look process in which the Planning Dept. at Metro is studying rural/urban interfaces. Those drawings provided a different perspective of the region. Another map showed information from Portland State University on locations of Measure 37 claims.

Chair Ragsdale sought comments and questions about the maps. They included:

- The information presented in the maps is exactly what was needed, answering where different jurisdictions are at this moment in relation to developing the regional system.
- The work displayed at this meeting is a huge leap forward.
- The committee was also reminded that the plan is to represent some aspects of the system in map form, but some may be in the form of perspective drawings and/or text.
- The urban forest canopy could be another component. Reply: Currently the only jurisdictions that have data on urban forest canopy are City of Portland and City of Vancouver.
- When this information goes out to the public, not everyone will be able to grasp the concepts being represented in maps. Is there a way to put the information into a "virtual" format or 3-D type presentation so it can be illustrated in a way that starts off with what's on the ground? Another layer can then be added of what's in the planning stages, and other layers "draped over" them of even later stages of the process.
- Refer to Google Earth capabilities to develop this 3-D type presentation.
- Such suggestions as making the data more user-friendly for public presentation might be something to work towards for the Parks Summit at a work station specifically for that purpose, for e.g.
- Or the information could be presented in a plenary session at the beginning of the Summit.
- Lydia will research those suggestions. What technology does Metro have that might accommodate such a request?

Lydia wrapped up her presentation with a reminder that a number of the maps on display were still in the first draft stage. At this point it's crucial to obtain accurate information from those in the various jurisdictions who have in-depth knowledge of the system concept and know exactly what is missing from or inaccurate about the maps. Having planning staff from local jurisdictions available for further input is vital.

Planners from the various park entities were invited to a meeting with Lydia earlier today. Of the two that attended, useful suggestions were made for the categories placed on the master plan map. Lydia will make some changes based on those suggestions.

On Tuesday, October 31, park directors are meeting to talk about the two map products – the master plan map and the system map - and to have a discussion on basic level of service and how that might tie into an ultimate strategy for the region as far as funding parks. A Metro staffer, Paul Couey, who is proficient at facilitating will assist Lydia, Kim Gilmer, Zari Santner and Dan Zinzer move that discussion forward. These map products will be refined to be used at the Parks Summit. A request was made of Pat Sullivan to e-mail tomorrow morning to Kim, Zari and Dan the list of park directors and other top staff to whom an invitation was sent to the October 31 meeting.

David Bragdon joined the Committee at this point in the meeting.

Discussion of Parks Summit

The current target date for the Parks Summit is the third week in March 2007. Spring vacation schedules for various school districts were discussed. It was suggested that holding the Summit in the second week of March could avoid all spring breaks. The month of March is being focused on because it will allow the GPAC to get back to Council in a reasonable amount

of time. President Bragdon commented that if it means a better product, Council could accommodate having the presentation of the outcome of the Summit in April. A date for the Summit will be announced to the Committee at the next meeting on December 14.

Some elements of the format for the session were discussed including:

- a two day split session, with two weeks in between, or three to four days in between or back-to-back sessions
- day or evening sessions or a combination of the two, logistics for each scenario
- a main event first day and a follow-up or summarization for the last session
- a critical mass of participants is necessary
- include as participants others besides the "usual suspects"
- compelling speaker- e.g., Chicago Mayor Richard Daley or Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- critical that civic leaders and policy makers see the importance of the issue
- also critical that they are aware of the direction the public wants to go with these ideas
- want people to have the sense a regional parks system is just as important as land use and transportation planning

Chair Ragsdale reminded the Committee that the purpose of the Summit is to take the concept of the regional system to the larger public and say here is the vision and here is the strategy and did we get it right? The idea is to get the people to buy into and refine the concept.

David listed vital ingredients for a successful summit:

- 1 hold it at an interesting place that people want to go to
- 2 have an "unexpected" speaker who, when people look at the invitation, will ask why is that person speaking at this event – what's that about?
- 3 this topic lends itself to visual interest, take advantage of that
- 4 sponsorship – it is not just a Metro (or GPAC event); other entities need to take ownership of it as well

The next Summit subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15 at 4:00 pm at Metro (room to be determined). It is important to have adequate participation and to continue with the brainstorming. Send ideas and suggestions for the Summit to Heather Kent at kenth@metro.dst.or.us or 503-797-1739.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next GPAC meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2006 at Metro.