

From: Lydia Neill
To: Patricia Sullivan
Date: 12/15/2006 12:47:05 PM
Subject: please send to GPAC

GPAC Members:

Thank you to all of you who braved the weather and made it to the meeting only to find out we had made a decision to cancel. Sorry if this caused you any inconvenience. We will be updating our contact phone list at our next meeting so that in an event of an emergency we have the best chance of catching you before you leave home or your office for the meeting.

We are considering moving up the January meeting to January 11th. please let Pat know if you prefer the January 11th date or if we should just keep our regular meeting date. We have a few work products that we are ready to share and we are anxious to set the parameters of the summit.

Just a couple of quick updates on the summit after staff has met with David Bragdon. We have decided that a May date for the event will work much better in terms of the planning that is required. The Adidas facility is being firmed up but looks very promising. They have a very nice conference/auditorium that we think will work well for us. David is thinking that a smaller targeted event will be most effective. At this time it does not look likely that we will be able to get Mayor Daley for the keynote although we will extend an invitation when we have firmed up the date in May. Stay tuned for more information at the January meeting!

Thank you for all of your hard work and have a safe and happy holiday season-

Lydia



Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee

MEETING NOTICE

5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 14, 2006

Metro Regional Center, **Room 270**
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

**Please note the change in meeting room
to main floor, just past security desk**

AGENDA

Convene

Mike Ragsdale, Committee Chair

Regional nature-based science education *

Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder

Discussion of Park Summit

All

Updates

Adjourn

* See attached memo from Councilor Burkholder

GPAC Summit Subcommittee

Tools to be incorporated into the summit

- Google earth to provide a view/vision
- Regional concept: financing, institutional partnerships, commitment to realize common vision, increased importance and value of parks and open space to long-term health, livability and economic viability of the region
- Congressional bi-State partnerships

Possible Speaker Names

Mayor Richard Daley- Chicago, Jim Desmond has a call into his office
Bruce Babbitt- former Secretary of the Interior
Mayor Antonio Villaragosa- Los Angeles
Gene Duvernay- President of the Cascade Land Institute
Gert Boyle or Tim Boyle- Columbia Sportswear
John Crompton- Texas A&M (author of Proximate Principle)
Dr. David Nowak- US Forest Service researcher
Peter Hernik- Trust for Public Lands
Patrick Condon- University of British Columbia
Dan Heagerty and Gillian Ockner- David Evans and Assoc.
Dennis Wilde- Developer
Homer Williams- Williams and Dame, Developer
Bob Gerding- Gerding and Edling, Developer
Rutherford Platt- Ecological Cities Project, Amherst MA

Possible Venues

Nike- Tiger Woods Conference Center
PSU- ballroom
Addidas North America
Columbia Sportswear Building
Wyden and Kennedy- would need to be scheduled in the evening
Kingstad Center- Beaverton
Intel
Kaiser Permanente or Providence Hospital
Pacific University- Forest Grove
Mt Hood Community College
Vancouver- downtown Hilton

Participant List

“A” List

Elected's: mayors, city councilors, city county officials
Selected private/public board members
Park and Recreation directors and board members
GTAC members
Architectural Foundation of Oregon
Health Community
American Society of Landscape Architects
Business
Education
Minority Community
Individual Legislators and Leadership
Key State Staff (Oregon and Washington)
Key Congressional staff
Key Political People (Adam Davis, Patricia McCaig, lobbyists)
Civic leaders
Food Policy Leaders
Top Agency People (National Marine Fisheries, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife...)
Tourism/Economic Development Organizations (PDC, POVA, WEA...)

“B” List

Regional Trails Advocates
Board and Committee Members not on the “A” List
Elected Officials not on the “A” List
Urban Natural Resource List
Campaign Donors- not on the “A” List

“C” List

Follow-up post events

Cycle Oregon sponsored event for policy makers in June/July

M E M O R A N D U M

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PORTLAND, OREGON 97232 2736
FAX 503 797 1793



METRO

To: GPAC
From: Councilor Rex Burkholder
Date: December 5, 2006
Re: Regional nature-based science education

Committee members:

Over this past year, I have met with a number of individuals from Multnomah and Northwest Regional Education Service Districts, the Friends of Outdoor School, and other conservation education programs to discuss ways to find a reliable source of funding for the region's conservation education programs. I would like to consult with you in order to link these discussions with this committee's larger goals of finding stable funding for regional park operations.

Rationale for Metro involvement: Ensuring the eco-literacy of today's children is essential to creating a future public that is engaged in conservation issues and is sufficiently informed to provide regional leadership. The Metro Charter states that Metro's most important service is "policy making to preserve and enhance the quality of life and the environment for ourselves and future generations..." Based on the premise that successful conservation entails an education component, it is proposed that Metro use its taxation authority to create a stable and permanent source of funding for the region's nature-based science education programs. This tax would benefit not only Metro Parks and Greenspaces and Oregon Zoo education programs, but also external programs such as Outdoor School.

The need for quick action: Having either lost their budgeted funding sources or having unreliable funding sources, the tri-county area's Outdoor School programs are scrambling to survive. Many of the camps used by Outdoor School rely on these off-season rentals and may be put at risk if Outdoor Schools are reduced. The loss of these properties and the trained staff would be a tremendous setback, making it difficult to revive these programs.

The numbers: The current package of education programs being considered for funding would require approximately \$15 million per year. Of that, about \$6 million would pay the way for 17,000 students per year to attend Outdoor School for 5 nights. Current and proposed education programs at the zoo would cost approximately \$4.5 million per year, serving over a million students and zoo visitors both on and off site. Remaining funds would go toward ongoing and proposed programs run by Metro Parks and Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program.

12/4/2006

Regional equity: By providing a stable funding source for these programs, Metro would help to ensure regional equity. For instance, if school districts or schools in the region are forced to secure funding on an individual basis, access to Outdoor School will become fragmented. Schools in more affluent jurisdictions can often raise the necessary funds while schools in less affluent areas may have more difficulty doing so, giving them fewer chances to participate. The other programs under consideration would similarly provide more equal access across the region.

Public support: Past polls have indicated high levels of regional support for education and environmental issues. In a February 2006 poll, 33% of respondents indicated, unaided, that education would be among the 3 most important issues facing the region in 10 years. Education was the most common response to this question. In a separate question, the 3 highest ranked planning priorities over the next 10 years were all concerned with environmental protection. Given those responses, it is likely that great support will exist for a region-wide nature-based science education funding mechanism.

Metro departmental benefits: The creation of a regional funding source for conservation education may serve to create a more cohesive nature-based science education program at Metro, linking the efforts of the Zoo, Parks, and Nature in Neighborhoods. Such cohesion will allow Metro to be more strategic and focused in these efforts. Furthermore, increasing education programming in Metro parks will make more full use of these sites, turning them into venues for tangible and relevant science learning.

Metro budgetary benefits: With its shift from departmental to programmatic budgeting, a dedicated source of funding for all nature-based science education programs would simplify Metro's budgeting process.

The Metro Charter puts a limit on expenditures of certain tax revenues (\$12,500,000 per year plus an inflator, resulting in a cap of \$17,459,000 in the 2006-07 fiscal year). Revenues from taxes that have been approved by voters are exempt from this expenditure cap. This exemption would apply to the tax envisioned herein. With a dedicated funding source, it will be possible to remove nature-based science education programs from the larger Metro budgeting process, thereby freeing up previously budgeted monies for other Metro programs.