

Greenspaces Policy Advisory Committee
Mike Ragsdale, Chair

MEETING NOTES

Thursday, January 25, 2007

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Metro Regional Center, Rm. 370A&B
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR

Committee members present: Chair Mike Ragsdale, Scott Burgess, John Griffiths, Faun Hosey, Mike Houck, Linda Robinson, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten and Mike Sykes

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

Other: Ernie Drapela submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2006

Sue Marshall is on a leave of absence with the state legislature until June 30, 2007

Elected officials, staff and guests present: Mary Anne Cassin, Jim Desmond, Lydia Neill, Pat Sullivan, Kim Silva – MESD Foundation, Dan Prince, MESD Outdoor School, John Jackson, NWRESO Outdoor School, Jim Emerson, Forest Park Neighborhood Assoc. Beth Flanagan – Walker Macy

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

Regional Nature-Based Science Education - Councilor Rex Burkholder

Councilor Burkholder spoke on the clear nexus that exists between the nature-based education provided by Outdoor School and Metro's mission to encourage citizens of the region to care for nature. *(See attached memo dated December 5, 2006 from Councilor Burkholder to the GPAC on regional nature-based science education.)*

Dan Prince of the Multnomah Education Service District described past sources of funding for Outdoor School, recent efforts to raise funds and the results that loss of funding may create. A discussion with the Committee ensued. Councilor Burkholder asked if parks departments in general would be able to provide information on the desired funding amount(s) needed regionally for environmental education. Jim Desmond noted he would look into that. Councilor Burkholder then asked if the Committee would support the "Outdoor School Group's" proposal of going out and polling voters' interest in environmental education as well as funding operations and maintenance. A motion was passed by GPAC expressing support for the idea of polling, the importance of doing it soon and that it needs to be a part of the bigger discussion about parks funding.

Update – Election Results – Jim Desmond

Jim Desmond spoke of the success of Bond Measure 26-80 in November and the effectiveness of the campaign informing voters of the goal of the bond measure to protect natural areas and water quality. He also referred to the positive results in Clackamas and Washington counties.

The bonds will likely be sold on March 8. In addition, Jim spoke briefly of the local share and grant components of the measure.

Discussion of Parks Summit - All

Jim Desmond said Council President, David Bragdon, wanted to attend tonight's meeting but apologized for his absence, which was due to a schedule conflict. He asked Jim to emphasize to the Committee that the Parks Summit is a high priority to him.

Jim remarked on the good job the GPAC had done in coming up with a very clear vision statement and a framework for it. According to Jim, the main thrust of the Parks Summit will be to engage in a more specific discussion with the broader community for creating strategies and partnerships to come closer to that vision.

Some specifics of the Summit include the location, which will be the Adidas facility, on N.E. Greeley (the old Bess Kaiser Hospital). As for having Mayor Daley of Chicago as the main speaker, the plan seems to be unlikely but not out of the question. Jim emphasized the importance of getting the date set.

Speaking on the program for the Summit, Jim explained that the idea is to spend a short period of time at the beginning laying out what the regional system is. There will be maps displayed, and a short power point presentation. Subsequent discussions will focus on the park providers and their roles, gaps in the system and how, as a unit, the region might more efficiently provide those services.

Other comments included:

- It is critical that park providers participate in the summit and that key people be identified.
- It is important to ascertain from the summit participants the accuracy and adequacy of GPAC's vision for the regional system; did the Committee get it right?
- The business community and developers need to be included.
- Speakers are wanted who will energize the group into further and more widespread discussion and action.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next GPAC meeting is scheduled for February 22 at Metro.