

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

**MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, February 22, 2007  
5:30 PM  
Metro Regional Center, Rm. 270  
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR

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Committee members present: Chair Mike Ragsdale, Scott Burgess, Kim Gilmer, John Griffiths, Faun Hosey, Mike Livingston, Linda Robinson, Zari Santner, Dick Schouten and Dan Zinzer

Committee members absent: Mike Houck, Tim Raphael and Mike Sykes

Elected officials, staff and guests present: Fred King and Kristin Lieser – Metro Auditor's Office, Mary Anne Cassin, Jim Desmond, Lydia Neill, Pat Sullivan and Jim Emerson, Forest Park Neighborhood Assoc.

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

**Discussion of GPAC Map Products – Staff**

The first 30 minutes of the meeting were spent going over maps produced for GPAC by Metro's Data Resource Center. Lydia Neill walked the committee through the display of local parks maps (based on their master plans, development plans, comprehensive plans, etc.), pointing out revisions that have been made since the January meeting. It was noted that policy statements which are part of those plans, although important, are difficult to transpose to a map format. Committee members were again invited to examine the maps and, where needed, mark on them with appropriate corrections and notes. Jim Desmond suggested committee members, who choose to, come to the March 22 GPAC meeting 30 minutes before the 5:30 p.m. start time to have another opportunity to make changes to the maps.

The discussion moved to a display map referred to as the "Adopted Park Master Plan Map" which will soon be changed to the "Designated Future Parks Map". A request was made that committee members be sent an 11"x17" version of that map prior to the next meeting. The agenda for that meeting will include the latest version of the map and the related narrative. Chair Ragsdale pointed out that the goal is to identify park deficiencies or gaps in the region from this process.

Nat Brown, the newly hired Metro Parks' cartographer will be invited to the next GPAC meeting. Chair Ragsdale asked if it would be possible for Nat to produce a "deficiencies map". If those could be identified, the next step would be to determine which gaps and deficiencies are most reasonably addressed locally and which ones won't be addressed if there is no regional strategy. It was agreed that could be a very useful product.



## Discussion of Parks Summit – All

### Review and prioritization of invitee list

Lydia Neill explained that the purpose of the list is to determine who will make the personal phone calls of invitation to the Parks Summit. The committee was asked to point out people/organizations to add, to delete and determine the importance of their attendance to the success of the summit. This might affect who makes the various “invitation calls” and how quickly.

Points raised included:

- The list is still in a draft stage.
- If park directors are to attend, the mayors should be listed as “must attend”.
- Rob Wheeler is the current mayor of Happy Valley.
- Doug Meneke is General Manger of TPRD.
- Chambers of Commerce should have a higher priority than shown on the chart.
- Include:
  - U.S. Senators of Washington state.
  - City managers.
  - State legislators.
  - Columbia Land Trust, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge
  - Head of the Forest Service for the west end of Columbia Gorge
  - Possibly the Gorge Commission
  - Clackamas River Basin Council (this was an organization name correction)
  - Mayors of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal
  - Three Rivers Conservancy
  - Water Districts
  - Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
  - Under advocates: Friends of Jackson Bottom  
Friends of Oaks Bottom
- A suggestion was made to invite someone to be an “honorary chair” for the event (something like the grand marshall of the Rose Festival parade), someone with status who could bring prestige to the event, such as a Mark Hatfield. He or she wouldn't be required to do anything but lend their name to the event and perhaps attend a portion of it. It was added that this person would not be a speaker.

Chair Ragsdale suggested brainstorming the idea individually and if anyone has any names for honorary chair to bring them to the attention of Parks staff. Mary Anne Cassin once attended an Olmsted conference at which an Olmsted impersonator made an appearance. The Chair said one of the better impersonators in the country is Clay Jacobsen who is now at Lewis & Clark College and he impersonates historical figures. Something to consider.

The Summit sub-committee that met on February 9 will be meeting again by conference call on February 28 at 10:45 a.m. to further refine the list of invitees.

*Note: Participants in the conference call on February 28 were Scott Burgess, John Griffiths, Mike Ragsdale, Linda Robinson, Dick Schouten and Lydia Neill.*



Jim Desmond noted that the higher up or the more influential in an organization the contact is, the better. There may also be appropriate organizations that should be on the mailing list but for whom a personal phone call may not be necessary.

GPAC members were asked to provide staff with as much current contact information as they have for organizations and individuals listed as invitees. This would include – regular mail addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, etc. In addition if they have a name for a decision maker or prominent representative for the organizations to be invited, that information will also be very helpful.

### Content planning

- An additional sub-committee to discuss the content of the Parks Summit program will be convened on Wednesday, March 7 at 10:45 a.m. via conference call. Those expressing interest in joining the discussion are Scott Burgess, Kim Gilmer, John Griffiths, Mike Houck and Mike Ragsdale.
- One overall question raised was: how do we elevate parks, natural areas and open spaces to the service level and funding of the other public services –planning, transportation, etc.

Mike Ragsdale reminded the group that one of the purposes of this constituency-building is to build momentum behind the GPAC Vision.

### Update on speaker confirmations

Mary Anne reported on the most promising possibilities for speakers. The possibility of Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago appearing at the Summit will hinge on whether he wins today's primary. If he does not, much of his time for the next several months might be taken up with additional campaigning. Mary Anne stated that within the next week or so there should be a definite "yes" or "no" from Mayor Daley's office. Tim Boyle, CEO of Columbia Sportswear, who was personally contacted by David Bragdon, has stated he will speak at the event. David Fisher, Executive Director of the Great Rivers Greenway District in St. Louis has confirmed his intended presence; he will be talking about different regional park models. The other confirmed speaker is David Thorpe of ZIBA. They will be put under contract; the Scope of Work is being written now. See attached memo of a draft sketch of the Scope of Work.

### Logistics update

An event brief in draft form was distributed which included the following components:

- Background/Frame
- Event Positioning: Why now? What will the summit accomplish? What are the next steps?
- Objectives
- Participants
- Event outline
- Possible activities to hold in conjunction with parks summit

This is a format that Metro's Public Affairs Dept. follows to flesh out an event that's being planned. A brief discussion followed of the draft components of the brief. *(See attached.)* This is an agenda item which will be given considerable time at the March 22 meeting.



Ernie Drapela, recently retired from GPAC and whose daughter works at ZIBA, has volunteered to be a liaison between the two to make sure that what the Committee is looking for from them is what they deliver.

Mary Anne spoke of a part of the Regional System that has functioned quite well - the Regional Trails System. It is an area where the region has come together; there is funding that's available and there is critical mass on completed parts and on what the next steps are. There has been discussion about having part of the Summit agenda dedicated to the Trail System as an example of what can be accomplished.

John Griffiths observed that what the committee wants to accomplish is:

- to roll out the regional vision
- to explain to the Summit participants "what's in it for them"
- to show the pieces of the regional vision that have been accomplished
- to outline pieces that have yet to be accomplished
- and then have "sign-up sheets" (figuratively speaking) to elicit their support to accomplish the remaining items.

Dick Schouten remarked that, obviously the Summit will not solve all problems or fill all gaps; everything's not going to get done in this May meeting. But we might be able to point people in some direction that is concrete and be realistic.

Kim Gilmer added that what could be shown is the trail system – something that has been accomplished at a regional level. It might be difficult, however, from an agency's standpoint, to embrace everything that remains to be accomplished. But the participants who are committed could identify another piece of the region that everyone can agree on would be logical to fund on a regional level – (e.g., interconnections of natural areas or the maintenance of natural areas).

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

**The next GPAC meeting is scheduled for March 22 at Metro.**