

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECLARING INTENT) RESOLUTION NO. 92-1616
TO SEEK VOTER APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY)
AND FINANCING FOR ACQUISITION,) Introduced By Rena Cusma,
DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND) Executive Officer
OPERATION OF REGIONAL GREENSPACES)

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Service District has taken a leadership role in identifying remaining natural areas in the region and planning for their protection and potential acquisition; and

WHEREAS, Such activities have been and will continue to be coordinated with the local governments and citizens in the region; and

WHEREAS, Numerous planning efforts, studies and recommendations have been proposed over the past 90 years to develop a system of interconnected greenspaces for the Portland/Vancouver region as evidenced by the Olmsted plan to the Portland Parks Bureau in 1903; the Lewis Mumford report to the Portland City Club which promoted the concept of a bi-state regional natural areas system in 1938; the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) 1971 study: "The Urban Outdoors; A Proposal to the Portland-Vancouver Community for a Metropolitan Park and Open Space System;" 1984 Metropolitan Citizens League recommendation that Metro undertake a study of regional park needs; the series of Columbia-Willamette Futures citizen forums and workshops held during 1984-86 on regional parks which recommended the need for regional planning and cooperation in parks planning; and the regional parks inventory and study conducted by Metro during 1987-89; and

WHEREAS, In 1988 Metro initiated a Regional Parks Forum series to bring together federal, state, local jurisdictions and nonprofit conservation organizations to coordinate parks and natural areas studies and inventories; and

WHEREAS, The February 1989 "Metro Recreation Resource Study" recommended that natural areas planning on a regional basis be initiated, including a regional inventory, regional goals and objectives and regional preservation plans; and

WHEREAS, On February 9, 1989, by Resolution No. 89-1043, the Metro Council established five specific tasks for regional natural areas planning:

1. Maintain and expand the parks database.
2. Continue regularly scheduled parks forums.
3. Coordinate natural areas planning in the region.
4. Coordinate and assist in the planning, acquisition and development of regional trails, greenways and wildlife corridors.
5. Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, park advocate organizations and the private sector to identify potential regional park and recreational opportunities, potential action plans to preserve, acquire and protect key resources; and

WHEREAS, On August 24, 1989, by Resolution No. 89-1129, Metro approved a scope of work for an inventory and analysis of natural areas within the region; and

WHEREAS, On June 28, 1990, by Resolution No. 90-1261, the Metro Council established a Policy Advisory Committee to assist the Council in coordinating its Natural Areas Planning Program and to develop a regional consensus in the development of a Metropolitan Greenspace plan; and

WHEREAS, On December 13, 1990, by Resolution No. 90-1344, Metro established a Technical Advisory Committee to assist the Metro Council in coordinating the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program and plan; and

WHEREAS, From May 1990 through December 1991 all four counties (including Clark County, Washington) in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, and 22 of 24 cities within the Metro Boundary, and Vancouver, Washington, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District, and various conservation organizations and neighborhood associations approved resolutions supporting Metro's continued planning and coordination efforts for protecting natural areas through the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program; and

WHEREAS, On April 29, 1992, Metro began distribution of a Public Review Draft Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan recommending Metro assume responsibility for planning, financing, acquiring, developing, maintaining and operating a cooperative regional system of natural areas, open space, trails and greenways of metropolitan significance for wildlife and people; and

WHEREAS, SB 1185 in the 1991 Legislative Session requires new tax coordination procedures, including a special public hearing by

the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission for any proposed bond issue under ORS 294.655; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Service District is authorized by ORS 268.312(1)(c) to acquire, develop, maintain and operate a system of parks, open space and recreational facilities of metropolitan significance subject to prior voter approval; and

WHEREAS, All districts, including Metropolitan Service District, are required by ORS 199.464(2) to obtain Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission approval of a proposal to initiate an additional function of the District prior to referral to the voters; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,


1. That approval of the Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission be sought for the District to seek voter approval to exercise authority under ORS 268.312(1)(c) to acquire, develop, maintain and operate a system of parks, open space and recreational facilities of metropolitan significance.

2. That the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission be notified of the Metro Council's intent to seek voter approval of a general obligation bond to finance a system of regional greenspaces at the November 1992 election for the purpose of conducting the public hearing required by ORS 294.655 and 1991 SB 1185.

3. That the Council declares its intent to adopt a Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan after public review, comment and amendment of the current draft.

4. That the Council authorizes the Executive Officer to take the actions necessary to allow the District to fulfill the intent of this Resolution, and to return to the Council at the appropriate time with the necessary implementing actions.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District
this 28th day of May, 1992.



Jim Gardner, Presiding Officer

TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 92-1616 DECLARING INTENT TO SEEK VOTER APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY AND FINANCING FOR ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF REGIONAL GREENSPACES

Date: May 13, 1992

Presented by: Councilor Devlin

Committee Recommendation: At the May 12 meeting, the Transportation and Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 92-1616. Voting in favor: Councilors Devlin, McLain, Bauer, Buchanan, and Washington.

Committee Issues/Discussion: Andrew Cotugno, Planning Director, presented the staff report. He described the series of activities that are currently underway that will culminate in adoption of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan and referral of a bond measure to the voters of the region. The Master Plan will be the document that identifies what constitutes "regional" areas of importance. The resolution referring the bond measure will identify the ballot title, and amount of the measure. Before the issue is referred to the voters it must be reviewed by the Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission (PMALGBC) and the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC).

The Council must file with the PMALGBC for the authority to take on a new function regarding "operation" of open space. The TSCC reviews the intent to file for a bond measure.

Committee discussion centered on the fact that the Metro Council appoints members of this Boundary Commission and will now seek approval of this resolution by the same commission. This has happened twice before; when Metro took over operation of the Zoo and the Convention Center. The Legislature approved Metro's authority to appoint the Commission since that time. It is questionable whether the Legislature considered this potential awkwardness when making the decision. The committee discussed, without resolution, the option of making this issue part of the Legislative package for 1993.

In July, the full Council will have before them resolutions that determine: a) if we move ahead with the Metropolitan Greenspaces project; b) how large the project will be; and c) the cost of acquisition and operation.

The intent is to place the issue on the same November ballot as the proposed Metro Charter. The most recent version of the Charter permits Metro to acquire, but not operate, a system of Greenspaces. Hopefully, the Charter language will be changed, but if not, the Greenspaces resolution could appear in the form of a Charter amendment.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 92-1616 FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DECLARING INTENT TO SEEK VOTER APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY
AND FINANCING FOR ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATION OF REGIONAL GREENSPACES

Date: May 12, 1992

Presented By: Andy Cotugno and
Patrick Lee
Planning Dept.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Metro has taken a leadership role in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area to coordinate regional planning efforts related to parks, open space and natural areas through various resolutions as outlined in Resolution No. 92-1616, and through its budgets and work programs since 1988. Metro has also been working cooperatively with the cities and counties, park districts, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and citizens of the region in developing the Greenspaces Program, Master Plan and financing options to protect and acquire open space.

The Public Review Draft of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan recommends that Metro assume operations and management responsibilities for regionally significant greenspaces, and recommends that a general obligation bond issued by the District be seriously considered by the Council as an important greenspaces protection tool to be used for acquisition and capital improvement of important greenspaces.

Resolution No. 92-1616 fulfills statutory requirements in order for Metro to implement these recommendations, at its discretion, through deliberations on the Master Plan and a bond referral ordinance, both scheduled for consideration by the Council in July. The notices of intent do not bind Metro to a certain course of action, but must be filed in order for the Council to consider the recommendations as policy options during Master Plan and bond referral deliberations.

Metro can become a parks, open space and greenspaces provider, but only with the approval of the voters of the District. ORS 268.312 (1) (c) authorizes Metro to acquire, develop, maintain and operate a system of parks, open space and recreational facilities of metropolitan significance, subject to prior voter approval. ORS 199.464 (2) requires that Metro notify The Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary of its intent to seek voter approval of this authority. The Boundary Commission must approve Metro's proposal to initiate an additional function of the District. The acquisition bond measure referral could serve as the vehicle for voter approval of the authority.

Metro must also notify the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC) about its intent to seek voter approval of a general obligation bond measure to finance a system of regional greenspaces at the November 1992 election. The TSCC would then hold a hearing on the issue as required by ORS 294.655 and 1991 SB 1185. The District has already complied with other tax consultation requirements associated with Ballot Measure 5.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 92-1616.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN *for* METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES

May 28, 1992

James Gardner, Presiding Officer
Metro Council
2000 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

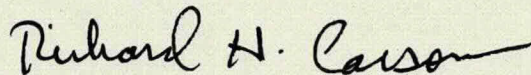
Dear Councilor Gardner:

The Citizens' Campaign for Metropolitan Greenspaces urges the Metro Council to approve Resolution No. 92-1616. We believe it is imperative that the Council take a position now on its *"intent to seek voter approval of a general obligation bond to finance a system of regional greenspaces at the November 1992 election."*

The campaign committee has opened its headquarters and hired staff and campaign consultants to make sure that such a bond measure passes. However, our ability to raise the amount of funding needed for such a campaign is limited because the Council has not committed to the bond measure or the November 1992 election.

We hope that all Councilors will vote to support this resolution. It is time for Metro Council to demonstrate to the voters and residents of the region that it is ready to make the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan a reality.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Carson, Chairman

cc: Rena Cusma

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Authorized by the Citizens Campaign for Metropolitan Greenspaces.