



METRO COUNCIL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2015
Centro Cultural, Cornelius, OR

Councilors Present: Council President Tom Hughes, and Councilors Shirley Craddick, Sam Chase, Kathryn Harrington, Bob Stacey, Carlotta Collette and Craig Dirksen

Councilors Excused: None

Council President Tom Hughes called the regular council meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. METRO PARKS AND NATURE UPDATE: YEAR TWO LEVY HIGHLIGHTS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Council President Hughes introduced Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter to present a Metro Parks and Nature update focusing on projects completed under the 2013 parks and natural areas levy and current programs connected to the 2006 natural areas bond measure. Ms. Brennan-Hunter noted that Metro has made progress on 58 restoration projects dedicated to protecting water quality, controlling invasive weeds, and improving habitat for fish and wildlife. These projects include fish-centric restoration of Multnomah Channel Marsh, planting native trees and shrubs across regional parks and natural areas, restoration of Chehalem Ridge, and park improvements to Blue Lake Regional Park. Ms. Brennan-Hunter highlighted the initiatives Connect to Nature and Partners in Nature, which work with community-based organizations to develop unique nature programs that are welcoming to diverse communities. She also noted Metro has expanded conservation education programs and volunteer opportunities to connect more residents with nature.

Ms. Brennan-Hunter spoke about the 71 new parks that have opened or are in the process of opening thanks in part to the 1995 and 2006 bond measures. Additionally she stated that Metro has acquired and protected more than 5,300 acres of land, including some of the last swathes of native prairies, wetlands, and other valuable habitat. Ms. Brennan-Hunter said that money from the bond measure will also help build a river walk that provides public access to Willamette Falls for the first time in 100 years.

Council discussion

There was none.

2. PARKS AND NATURE: WASHINGTON COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Council President Hughes introduced Metro staff, Ms. Alex Perove, senior parks planner, Mr. Rod Wojtanik, interim Parks and Nature Department planning manager, and Ms. Elaine Stewart, senior natural resource scientist, to provide a brief presentation on parks and natural areas in Washington County. The presentation highlighted regional projects in the county, including Killin Wetlands, a new Tualatin River canoe and kayak launch, Orenco Woods, and Maroon Ponds.

Ms. Perove provided a brief update on the Killin Wetlands planning project, explaining that this project seeks to provide safe visitor access without impacting neighbors or natural resources. She discussed design concepts that combined habitat restoration, buffered farmland, a formal entry for day use, and opportunities to view wildlife. She also noted that trails, located on the east and west sides of the dairy barn, are designed to reasonably accommodate visitors that may have limited mobility. Ms. Perove mentioned a few other features including dairy barn improvements, construction of a crow's nest learning center, flexible space for small groups and classes, and the addition of a Quilt Barn Trail block.

Mr. Wojtanik provided a brief update on the Farmington Natural Area & Tualatin River launch project and the Orenco Woods Natural Area. He explained that the Tualatin River boat launch aims to improve safe, legal, and public access to the river. He stated that after submitting federal permits this month, the boat launch is projected to open to the public this fall. Mr. Wojtanik also discussed The Orenco Woods Nature Park area, noting that it was acquired by Metro and Hillsboro in 2011 with the intention of conserving an important resource and creating a regionally significant natural area. He noted that current design plans include restoration, a regional trail network, parking areas, restrooms, shelters, a nature based play area, public art, and interpretive education stations, and that the project is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2016, with planting restoration efforts beginning this fall.

Ms. Stewart provided a brief update on the Maroon Ponds Project. She explained that the project focuses on dewatering a constructed farm pond in order to create a healthy, functioning wetland. Ms. Stewart noted that partners shared strengths and worked together to establish enhancement plans that concentrate on innovative restoration and long-term stewardship for wildlife and habitat.

Council discussion

There was none.

3. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 18, 2015

Motion:	Council President Hughes moved to adopt the Council Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2015.
Second:	Councilor Stacey seconded the motion.

Vote: Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Chase, Dirksen, Collette and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion passed.

4. RESOLUTIONS

Council President Hughes requested that the resolutions be read and motioned on together, then staff could provide one presentation and report, and then he would call for a final vote on both resolutions.

Resolution No. 15-4635, For the Purpose of Approving 2015 Nature In Neighborhoods Conservation Education Community Grants

Motion:	Councilor Craddick moved to approve Resolution No. 15-4635.
Second:	Councilor Collette seconded the motion.

Vote: Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Chase, Dirksen, Collette and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion passed.

Resolution No. 15-4636, For the Purpose of Approving Eighth Round Funding for Nature In Neighborhoods Capital Grants

Motion:	Councilor Craddick moved to approve Resolution No. 15-4636.
Second:	Councilor Stacey seconded the motion.

Vote: Council President Hughes, and Councilors Craddick, Harrington, Chase, Dirksen, Collette and Stacey voted in support of the motion. The vote was 7 ayes, the motion passed.

Council President Hughes introduced Metro staff, Ms. Heather Nelson Kent, who presented a staff report on the 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Community Grants and 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants. Ms. Nelson Kent explained how Metro Council provides funding for grants to community groups, non-profits, local government, and other organizations, and that these grants are designed to improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and give people of all ages opportunities to learn about and connect with nature. She noted that the Conservation Education Community Grants focus on connecting people with nature, environmental literacy, and the development of conservation leaders. Ms. Nelson Kent also stated that Metro's Capital Grant Program supports innovative ways to help nature thrive at a neighborhood scale, focusing on projects that concentrate on land acquisition, urban transformations, restoration, and neighborhood livability. Ms. Nelson Kent thanked the Metro Council for all of their support and congratulated the awarded grant recipients.

Council President Hughes invited representatives from the Audubon Society of Portland to provide brief statements at Metro staff's request. Mr. Jim Labbe, Mr. Salvador Pacheco Pasalle, and Ms. Ariadna Falcon Gonzalez thanked the councilors for their support regarding the Nature in Neighborhoods Grants program and its focus on diversity and minority inclusion.

Ms. Nelson Kent read a short description of each of the projects being recommended for capital funding, which included the following projects and award recipients:

- Hogan Butte Nature Park Phase I (City of Gresham)
- Oak Island Marsh Restoration (City of Hillsboro)
- Boones Ferry Fish, Wildlife and Trail Passage Partnership (City of Portland)
- Mt. Scott Creek Oak Bluff Reach Restoration (Clackamas County Waster Environmental Services)
- Bull Mountain Park Projects (Friends of Bull Mountain Park)

- Boardman-Rinearson Wetland Complex Land Acquisition (Oak Lodge Sanitary District)
- Let Us Build Cully Park: Play Area (Verde)

Ms. Nelson Kent read a short description of each of the projects being recommended for conservation education funding, which included the following projects and award recipients:

- Teaching the Importance of STREAM via Youth Engagement and Career Mentorship (Adelante Mujeres)
- Asian Pacific Islander Youth Leaders in Nature (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon [APANO])
- The TALON Program (Audubon Society)
- Home Is Where the Watershed Is (Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Inc.)
- Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors (Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors [ECO])
- Friends and neighbors for Environmental Diversity (Friends of Tryon Creek)
- St. Johns Community Conservation Program (George Middle School)
- Kairos Learning Exploration Garden (Kairos PDX)
- Opportunity Corps & Beyond (Momentum Alliance)
- Exploring Language, Exploring Nature; Curriculum for Immigrants & Refugees (People-Places-Things, LLC)
- Rosemary Anderson High School and Friends of Trees Student Crew Leader Training Program (Portland OIC/Rosemary Anderson High School)
- OakQuest Phase 2: Expanding Education, Empowering Citizens & Native Youth (Urban Greenspaces Institute)
- Verde (Verde Landscape)
- Wisdom Workforce Program (Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.)
- Farm School (Zenger Farms)

Council discussion

Councilors thanked the review committee for their hard work and time in reviewing the applications and recognized the organizations, staff and volunteers for their work and engagement of the community as well. Councilors also recognized the support from the region and thanked the voters who have helped fund these types of programs. Additionally, Councilors spoke to the value of nature investments, conservation education, community engagement, and creating access and equity throughout the region.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Hughes noted that a citizen had come to the meeting to testify but missed the Citizen Communication portion of the agenda, but invited him to come up and provide his testimony at this point in the agenda.

Tom Black, Hillsboro: Mr. Black addressed the Metro Council on the Washington County Term Limits Ballot Initiative, which seeks to amend the Washington County Charter by adding term limits for county commissioners.

6. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Ms. Martha Bennett provided updates on the following items: Metro, The Urban Land Institute (ULI), and the Evergreen State College Center for Sustainable Infrastructure are hosting the

“Infrastructure Crisis, Sustainable Solutions” event series at the Oregon Rail Heritage Center on July 15th, and a formal thank you to Metro staff for setting up the off-site Council meeting in Cornelius.

7. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATION

Councilors provided updates on the following items: Blue Lake Master Plan Committee, Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) and Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). In addition, Councilor Dirksen encouraged citizens to attend the Graham Oaks Park Day on Saturday, July 11th in Wilsonville.

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the regular meeting at 3:57 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on Thursday, July 16 at 2 p.m. at Metro’s Council Chamber.

Respectfully submitted,



Alexandra Eldridge, Regional Engagement & Legislative Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 9, 2015

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
3.0	Minutes	6/18/15	Council Minutes for June 18, 2015	070915c-01
4.0	Handout	7/9/15	Nature in Neighborhoods: Capital and Conservation Education Grants 2015	070915c-02
5.0	Handout	7/9/15	Term Limits for County Commissioners Ballot Initiative	070915c-03