



METRO COUNCIL RETREAT
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2015
Metro Regional Center, Room 501

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

Councilors Excused: None

Staff Present: Martha Bennett, Alison Kean, Ina Zucker, Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Amy Croover, Alexandra Eldridge, Beth Cohen, Colin Deverell, Ramona Perrault, Nikolai Ursin, Justin Patterson, Linda Lechler, Marybeth Haliski, Christy Carovillano, Laura Odom, Dan Moeller, Brian Kennedy, Lisa Goorjian

Also Present: Matt Hastie, Robin Craig, Mike Faha

Council President Hughes noted a quorum was present and called the council retreat to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. RETREAT OVERVIEW

Ms. Martha Bennett opened the retreat and introduced Ms. Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Interim Parks and Nature Director, to give an overview of the retreat. Ms. Brennan-Hunter reminded the Council of previous discussions on the System Plan in May and June, noting that this retreat was designed to follow up on areas identified as important during that retreat, specifically Metro's Parks and Nature Operating Model, an overview of Parks and Nature operations and maintenance funding, and an inventory classification system for our sites and facilities based on work completed in the 2011 Portfolio Report. She briefly touched on what staff heard from these discussions and the key conclusions that staff drew from the Council engagements, leading to three primary questions that Council could discuss today:

- How should Metro operate its parks and natural areas?
- What is a nature park? Or, what types of facilities does Metro have and how do we describe them?
- Can Metro take care of its portfolio today and in the future?

Ms. Brennan-Hunter also noted important stakeholder engagement that had been taking place, in addition to the Council engagement, including meeting with park directors, leaders of community business organizations, non-profit organizations, colleagues and partners at other public agencies, regional city managers, local elected officials, and an upcoming presentation at the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) scheduled for this Fall, in order to make sure that there were plenty of opportunities for briefings on the progress of the plan.

2. PARKS AND NATURE OPERATING MODEL

Ms. Brennan-Hunter presented information about the current operating model, highlighting that Metro operates 90% of its portfolio with the exceptions being Cooper Mountain Nature Park, Mount Talbert Nature Park, Orenco Woods Nature Park (anticipated), and approximately 1,200 acres of natural areas, and that while Metro retains ownership of these sites, our partners are managing ongoing operations. She provided a draft proposed operation model along with a set of potential criteria to use in making decisions about site operations in the future, requesting feedback on if there were any criteria missing. She also noted that while this feedback will help direct the first draft of the System Plan, the Council will have future opportunities to review the draft and make additional changes as needed. Councilors asked questions relating to partner operations or specific natural areas, but did not have any edits to the criteria, and noted appreciation for the opportunity for future review and edits.

3. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Brian Kennedy, Assistant Finance Director, provided a brief overview of how the Parks and Nature program is currently funded, explaining that the levy provides a little more than half of the total operations and maintenance funding. He also added that more than half of enterprise revenues currently come from Glendoveer Golf Course, but that those are almost entirely offset by operations costs. Mr. Kennedy went over the specific program areas, including natural areas restoration and maintenance and parks and cemeteries operations and maintenance, explaining where funding comes from for each program and using the dials from the May 2015 Council Retreat focus exercise to frame the discussion. Mr. Kennedy concluded by noting that with the current levy, Metro is able to maintain current standards, that there are some gaps that exist in some program areas (such as cemeteries), and that more research is needed overall on standards. Due to time restraints, Council moved directly into the last presentation on inventory classification.

4. INVENTORY CLASSIFICATION

Mr. Justin Patterson, Metro Visitor Services Program Director, and Mr. Dan Moeller, Metro Land, Science, and Conservation Program Director, provided an overview on a draft inventory classification system of Metro's properties. They categorized the system into six types of classifications, providing a draft definition and an example of a Metro property that fit each classification:

- Regional Recreation Area (example: Blue Lake Park)
- Regional Nature Park (Graham Oaks Nature Park)
- Regional Natural Area (North Logan Natural)
- Regional Habitat Preserve (Peach Cove Fen)
- Regional Trails (Springwater Trail)
- Historic Cemetery (Lone Fir Cemetery)

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Moeller asked councilors if they had any questions or feedback on the specific classifications or definitions. Councilors discussed specific properties and where they fit in, or how they may change, as well as questions relating to how the classifications were created (based on other classifications around the country, etc.). Councilors overall liked the classification system, noted specific parts of the presentation that they liked or had questions about, and asked for staff to continue to consult with them in briefings where there were more details or information requested.

5. **BREAK**

6. **NEXT STEPS**

Councilors noted that more time would be needed to continue this conversation and requested that a follow up retreat be scheduled later in the year. Ms. Bennett and Ms. Brennan-Hunter agreed to follow up and find an additional date for staff to either visit work session or to schedule a retreat.

7. **ADJOURN**

Seeing no further discussion, Council President Hughes adjourned the Council retreat at 4:12 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Botond Kovacs".

Botond Kovacs, Council Policy Assistant

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF SEPT. 3, 2015

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1.0	Memo	08/25/2015	Memo from Kathleen Brennan-Hunter Re: Retreat Information, Operating Model	090315c-01
1.0	Presentation slides	09/03/2015	Parks and Nature System Plan PowerPoint Presentation	090315c-02