

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 4, 1998

Metro Council Chamber

Members Present: Ruth McFarland (Chair), Jon Kvistad

Members Absent: Patricia McCaig (Vice Chair), Rod Monroe

Chair McFarland called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Aleta Woodruff, Member, Rocky Butte Preservation Society, 2143 NE 95th Ave., Portland, OR, 97220, thanked the Metro staff of the Parks and Greenspaces department for its assistance in closing land acquisitions with willing sellers of properties adjoining or near the Joseph Wood Hill Park, which is the official title of "Rocky Butte."

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 1998

Motion:

Councilor Kvistad moved to adopt the Minutes of October 21, 1998, for the purpose of a vote.

Vote:

Chair McFarland approved the minutes. Councilors McCaig and Monroe were absent. Councilor Kvistad had not been present at the meeting.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 98-2724, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING AMENDING THE EAST BUTTES/BORING LAVA DOMES TARGET AREA REFINEMENT PLAN TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL LAND ACQUISITIONS IN THE EAST BUTTES

Motion:

Councilor Kvistad moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 98-2724.

Charles Ciecko, Regional Parks and Greenspaces, thanked Ms. Woodruff for her kind and timely comments on Rocky Butte. He then explained that the resolution simply requests that the cap on the 25% fund created for the East Buttes and Boring Lava Domes target area be removed. He said that Metro has enjoyed success with the City of Portland on places like Powell Butte and Rocky Butte and with the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District on Mount Talbert. He said Metro has expended about 54% of the \$4 million-dollar challenge grant fund that was established via the refinement plan. He said Metro currently has properties under contract that would deplete that fund by the end of this month. Because of the success of the partnerships, his department was simply asking that the cap be removed so that additional partnership opportunities could be pursued as they present themselves.

Chair McFarland asked if he meant that Metro has more money to spend from other sources and would like to spend it in this manner if possible.

Mr. Ciecko said additional funds are available in the East Buttes Boring Lava Domes budget. However, some \$4 million of those funds were identified to be in the challenge grant sub-fund. Metro would like to remove the cap so that it could continue the form more successful partnerships.

Vote:

Chair McFarland and Councilor Kvistad voted aye. Councilors Monroe and McCaig were absent. The vote was 2/0, and the motion passed.

Councilor McFarland will carry the resolution to a meeting of the full Council.

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5. MERC QUARTERLY REPORT

Chair McFarland postponed hearing the MERC Quarterly Report, because she had heard the report already, and Councilors Monroe and McCaig were absent.

6. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Chair McFarland granted Councilor Kvistad a point of privilege to discuss another potential green space issue. He said he would be preparing a proposal to partner with the cities of Tualatin, Tigard, and Sherwood on the southern portion of what is known as the Morand Property. He said he would propose to transfer management of that southern portion either by purchase or long-term lease, so those cities could develop sports park for activities such as soccer and baseball. He said he discussed this with the mayors of Sherwood and Tigard and with key people connected with parks, sports, and schools in those areas. They have said their cities lack flat spaces suitable for sports that they can afford to purchase. They have agreed in principle to fund the purchase or lease of the property.

Councilor Kvistad said the portion of the property involved is not environmentally significant and might be considered surplus. He said Metro cannot legally sell this property for development, but it can sell it for public use. He said he would include in the IGA a provision for the property to return to Metro if it needs to be sold in the future. He said he realizes this proposal presents a different situation from other Greenspace purchases, and he does not want to create the appearance that Metro is misusing money meant for greenspaces. He added that the mayors have offered to not only assume management responsibility for their portion of the property, but to also share in the maintenance and repair of the rest of the property.

Chair McFarland confirmed with Mr. Cieccko that he has been aware that these discussions have been going on. Mr. Cieccko said yes. He said he concurred that the southern portion of this property has a low value as natural-resource land. He said it came along with the rest of the property, which has a high value as a natural resource. He said he sees real potential with this type of partnership.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Prepared by,

Pat Emmerson
Council Assistant