



Portland Chamber

May 18, 1992

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Blanche Schroeder *BMS*
RE: Update of my May 10 Memo

* It has been brought to my attention that the Charter Committee was silent on whether the dollars under the cap would be limited to planning and enforcement. Thus, this is a major issue that is still "on the table".

I was told that several of the Charter Committee members want this government to have simple and expanded ways to fund service shortages and/or to fund other activities such as this year's budget item for the arts.

It would be a stretch for the Chamber to support niche taxes in any form, but with restrictions on the amount and for a clearly identified purpose, presuming that the rest of the charter is clearly supportable, it is a possibility.

However, if "under the cap" dollars could be used for unlimited purposes then this government would still be able to cut the planning/enforcement areas in favor of other expenditures. In other words, in the financing area, the only change would be expansion of ways to levy taxes and, by ordinance, instead of a vote of the people. This position we cannot support.

In addition, some refiguring of the level proposed for the cap is needed, as the \$12.6 million has no established relationship to the use for which it is proposed. This "top line" may very well become a "bottom line" so the figure chosen should be no higher than that which can be supported through relative analysis.

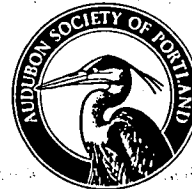
* Another major flaw in the current proposal is that which allows fees and service charges for a specific service to be used for purposes unrelated to the service. The Charter Committee put in a requirement that the amount of transfers must be shown in the annual audit. They feel this is an adequate protection against unreasonable draining of service charge accounts. The transfer of service charge funds for other unrelated purposes is not supported by the Chamber, especially since this would be in addition to the excise tax currently allowed.

The Charter Committee has a sub-committee working to put their proposals into legal charter language and our involvement is in developing specific charter language to reflect our bottom line and possible compromise areas as amendments to the draft. The full Charter Committee meets again on Thursday May 28th, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. and plans an all day session on Saturday June 6 to adopt a proposed charter to prepare for public review.

1093G/cam

Audubon Society of Portland

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June 1, 1992

To: Metropolitan Greenspaces PAC & TAC
From: Mike Houck
Re: Roles and Responsibilities and Clackamas County May 27 Memo

I am enclosing a copy of a May 27th memo from Clackamas County Commissioners. The issues raised are fundamental to the Greenspaces Program. With all due respect to the Commissioners, their proposal is deficient for the following reasons:

- While they "heartily support the (Greenspaces) vision", their "strong" opposition to Metro ownership and management of Greenspaces is contrary to that vision. Commissioner Hooley accompanied representatives from local and regional governments on a tour of the East Bay Regional Park District. EBRPD remains, in my opinion, the model we should strive for in our region. Rather than consolidation, cooperation and clear definition of regional-local roles and responsibilities, Clackamas County argues for continued fragmentation and duplication of park services.

- They state that "in many cases it will make sense for local providers to maintain and operate the greenspaces." I would argue that in most cases it makes no sense for local jurisdictions to own and manage Greenspaces. Very few current park providers are equipped to effectively manage a regional natural areas system. The irony is the most conscientious natural areas owners and managers are also the most receptive to Metro ownership and management of Greenspaces. Why? Because they are concerned about the resource not in fighting turf battles. In our opinion the entity best suited to protect and manage the resource should do so.

- They argue that the amount of "pass through" money would be too small, in many cases, to represent a significant resource. That is not a reason to preclude Metro from owning and managing Greenspaces. Jurisdictions have the option to use the relatively small amount of money to leverage additional funds, either from Metro's restoration program, or other sources to engage in public education and interpretation. For example, Portland Audubon Society has leveraged a great deal of matching funds with a \$116,000 grant from Meyer Memorial Trust over the past three years to publicize regional wildlife viewing areas. If small local governments were to use their relatively small amount of pass through funds creatively they could accomplish a great deal.

Failing a creative local plan, each jurisdiction has the ability to enter into cooperative agreements with nearby jurisdictions to develop a sub-regional, cooperative effort. Then, of course, they also have the option of giving the money back to Metro to be used for purchases and capital improvements within Greenspaces in or near their jurisdiction.

● They point out that small park providers have limited revenue. That is the reason Metro should become the primary regional natural areas provider...to consolidate responsibility for acquisition, management and interpretation of Greenspaces and leave local parks to local jurisdictions as with the East Bay Regional Park District model. One of our primary reasons for advocating a single, regional natural areas provider is that small or poorly funded park programs often fall on hard financial times and are frequently hard pressed to generate revenues for ongoing park management. I would point out that many of my constituents in the Estacada and Beaver-creek area fought hard to prevent Clackamas County from logging a pristine, older growth forest in Clackamas County's Deep Creek Park to raise revenues for Clackamas River boat ramps and fishing facilities. Unfortunately, the County proceeded with the liquidation of that significant natural resource. Today, we are willing to accept that Clackamas County is committed to being responsible stewards of its publicly owned natural resources. By the same token we would hope the county would demonstrate confidence in Metro's ability to assume an expanded role in ownership and management of Greenspaces. By doing so, they would demonstrate in a positive and constructive manner their commitment to continuing the cooperative nature of the program.

● Why should Clackamas County take the position that, if a local jurisdiction desires, a local natural areas function cannot be passed on to Metro? This is not merely a theoretical construct. There are ongoing discussions regarding consolidation of Multnomah County Parks with Metro. Such a consolidation would create a nucleus of Greenspaces, to which new acquisitions and additional local jurisdiction contributions could be added. We feel that this would best serve the Greenspaces agenda. It is not reasonable for Clackamas County to prevent, through their memorandum, Metro ownership and management of Greenspaces.

● Their argument that Metro should play a passive, coordinating and facilitating role in the Greenspaces Program is antithetical to the Greenspaces philosophy and to the agreements that were worked out during the "roles and responsibilities" process. Those jurisdictions that indicate a desire to be Greenspace managers, and demonstrate they have the capability to do so, should have that option. Those that wish to opt out of Greenspaces ownership and management and leave those functions to Metro, and there are several jurisdictions that have indicated they will do so, can focus their attention on local park needs.

Finally, I agree that O & M money must be found. This issue should not be linked to Metro's role as park provider. Metro will have to identify operating funds as will local providers that assume a Greenspaces role. Clackamas County's solution will result in a fragmented, chaotic and poorly managed regional Greenspaces system. Enclosed are two In My Opinion pieces for your information. I urge you as PAC and TAC members to support Metro's role as Greenspace owner and manager, in a cooperative effort with local jurisdictions. This isn't the time for fragmentation.

Mike Houch

METRO
CHARTER
COMMITTEE

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MEMORANDUM

June 9, 1992

TO: METRO CHARTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: HARDY MYERS, CHAIR

Here for each of you is a list of proposed issues for decision at our June 11 meeting and a second list of potential issues for further consideration at our June 18 meeting in the context of reviewing a third draft of the charter.

I want to emphasize that the list for the second meeting is not intended to include all the issues we will deal with in considering the next draft. We will, for example, be reviewing revisions of the Regional Framework Plan provisions, of the first Section 12 relating to Limitations on Authority to Contract, and drafting changes to other sections flowing from directions given at last Saturday's meeting. What I am trying to reflect in these two lists are matters not yet initially resolved by the committee or matters which, though decided previously, have been the focus of requests for change from inside or outside the committee. Likewise, the inclusion of an item on either list is not intended to preclude the committee from shifting an item from one meeting's agenda to the other or from deferring consideration of a given item until after the public hearings on the draft. At the beginning of the June 11 meeting, however, I want to seek committee agreement on the items we will consider at that meetings, subject to the understanding that we can take up additional items if time permits after completing the initially agreed list.

Thanks again to those members who were able to participate in Saturday's meeting. I look forward to seeing you Thursday.