

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES
Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes:

GTAC meeting
April 11, 2001
1 to 3 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, rm. 370

MPAC Parks Subcommittee report

Chair of the MPAC parks subcommittee, Jim Zehern, presented the subcommittee's final report. The major ideas in the report are:

- Parks and related lands and facilities are a critical component of livability.
- While the *Regional Growth Concept* and related regional policies acknowledge the critical role of the full spectrum of parks and related lands and facilities, we have not taken the necessary steps to adequately implement the park-related elements of the policies.
- Parks and related lands and facilities need to be on par with such important regional policy areas as land use, transportation and environmental protection.
- The \$135.6 million Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure passed by the region's voters in 1995 has resulted in important additions to the regional and local natural areas in public ownership in this metropolitan area. For the full spectrum of regional and local parks and related lands and facilities to be acquired, developed, operated, and maintained as needed for livability, however, additional capital and non-capital resources are required.
- Local park providers in the region face chronic constraints in securing adequate, stable funding. Metro should expand its mission to assist its local partners in this policy area.
- Metro should continue to develop the Regional System of natural areas and trails, irrespective of their ownership. To do so will require substantial additional monies to fund development and operation of the properties purchased with the 1995 bond proceeds and acquisition of additional properties.
- The Metro Council should mobilize the regional community in support of a major new regional effort to fund and otherwise deliver the full spectrum of parks and related lands and facilities needed to effectively implement the *Regional Growth Concept* and to maintain and enhance livability in the metropolitan area.

The report was presented to MPAC on April 5 and they asked that it be reviewed by GTAC. Although some members did not feel they were prepared to recommend adoption on behalf of their jurisdictions (due mostly to the limited timeframe), everyone responded positively to the report's recommendations. Some members also acknowledged the broad scope of the report and the need to evaluate and prioritize its recommendations. GTAC voted to "support the report as a policy document" (10 yes, 7 abstain). *See attached letter from Charlie Ciecko to MPAC.*

Metro Council update on parks and greenspaces

Presiding Officer David Bragdon summarized the work the Metro Council is doing to address parks and greenspaces issues. After several years of being very much embroiled in growth issues, the council is shifting its attention to parks and greenspaces. Presiding Officer Bragdon cited the winding down of the open spaces bond measure, the financial instability of Metro's existing parks programs and an increased recognition of the value of parks and greenspaces as the reasons for

the change of focus. At a recent retreat, parks issues were identified as the number one priority of the council and the executive officer, Mike Burton. Metro has met with the mayors and/or the park directors at each of the local jurisdictions and held three round table discussions with stakeholders to talk about funding issues, the regional system and the role of parks in the region. Presiding Officer Bragdon said the council will continue to look for revenue sources that don't compete with local providers.

Conservation and Reinvestment Act

GTAC voted unanimously to send a letter (from Charlie Ciecko) to members of Congress from Oregon and the southern part of Washington urging them to sponsor CARA 2001. When the letter is complete, it will be forwarded to GTAC.

Open spaces update/slide show

Jim Desmond of Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces reported on the status of the open spaces bond measure program. The local share program is nearing completion with 16 of 26 jurisdictions finished with their projects and 20 of \$25 million dollars expended. More than 6,600 acres of open space have been purchased by Metro to date. Jim highlighted acquisitions in the East Buttes, Jackson Bottom, Willamette Narrows and Fanno Creek target areas and the recent purchase of Rock Island near Canemah Bluff. Approximately \$27 million dollars remains for acquisition, of which \$13 million dollars is under contract. The Metro Council has directed the program to focus the remaining \$14 million dollars on "essential properties" that have been identified within specific target areas. "Essential properties" are those sites that are needed to complete or fulfill acquisition goals and without which other acquisitions may be compromised. They include properties in the Cooper Mountain, Fanno Creek, Dairy/McKay, Rock Creek, Tonquin Geologic, East Buttes, Newell and Canemah Bluff target areas.

In July, Metro will send out a special edition of GreenScene highlighting the local share program. Bonnie Giles will be contacting the local share project managers for information. Copies will be made available when the report is finished. For more information, contact Ron Klein at Metro at (503) 797-1774.

Proposed process for Regional Trails Plan criteria adoption and amendments

Heather Nelson Kent and Mel Huie presented the proposed process for additions and amendments to the Regional Trails and Greenways Map, including a new nomination form and a process for reviewing the change requests. Any new or previously submitted map changes and/or additions must be submitted with this form. Persons who submit nominations will have the opportunity to present the proposed change(s) at GTAC. The first meeting on proposed changes will be at the GTAC/Quarterly Trails meeting on July 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. A special meeting has also been scheduled July 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Both meetings will be at Metro Regional Center in Room 370. Please see attached forms and contact Mel Huie for more information at (503) 797-1731 or huie@metro.dst.or.us.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at Metro Regional Center in Room 370 from 1 to 3 p.m.
