

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2003

Meeting Notes Summary

Vice Chair Aleta Woodruff called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Other Committee members in attendance included Rebecca Banyas, Jeff Kee, David Manhart and Richard Reynolds. Also present were the following Metro Parks staff: Jim Desmond, Ron Klein and Patricia Sullivan.

Introductory comments and announcements

Ron Klein encouraged attendance at the 20th Annual Salmon Festival. Metro has long wanted to enhance its native American component of the event and to that end the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has been added as a new partner. It is in the process of negotiating with Idaho's Nez Perce to bring Apaloosa horses to the festival. Another new partner, EcoTrust, is taking on a new physical feature of the festival, the Salmon Nation Welcome Center.

In partnership with the Oregon Dept. of Human Services, Metro has created a 4" x 9" handout called "Be a Skeeter Beater" -- a small and succinct document which describes ways to protect one's family from the West Nile Virus and to remove the standing water, where mosquitoes breed.

Jeff Kee had asked about Metro's handling of the issue of water rights on acquired open space properties. He learned the Dept. generally deals with the issue on a case-by-case basis. According to Jim Desmond the first step, which Metro's legal dept. addresses, is to make sure water rights that are needed are not lost. Some of those water sources may be needed for restoration projects or to continue irrigation for historic farming practices. The second analysis being done is where Metro might be able to put water rights back into the stream. Metro Parks has met with staff of an organization called the Oregon Water Trust that focuses exclusively on that possibility. Had a lot of discussions with them on places that might be appropriate -- that would be a great way to not lose the water rights -- you can put them back into the stream and make a benefit to water quality in the meantime but you haven't permanently given up your rights. So far we have not had any property where we had water rights and we weren't using them and we needed to put them back in the stream and save them. The trick here being that since we don't know how these properties are going to be developed without a master plan, it is difficult to gauge how much water we will need for park purposes. But we are not willing anywhere to assume we will need none. We have not given our water rights anywhere. The main point that Jeff wanted to make was that there is a program that he just became aware of where if you have an irrigation system and you put a plan together and take it to the water resources dept., about 75% of your savings you can do whatever you want with; as water becomes a more valuable resource here in the region, it may become a source of revenue here in the region, it could be used for maintenance in the future - - - and of that 25% that's saved, that automatically goes right back into the in-stream rights. So it's a good way to enhance stream flows and potentially have a revenue source down the road. I wanted to put it on your radar.

Proposal to merge Metro parks committees into a new form and function

More shape and definition has been given to the proposal to merge the Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee and RPGAC since the latter last met on July 8. Metro has been reviewing all its advisory committees agency-wide looking at their histories, functions, (how much and to whom is advice given), how much staff time is involved, where overlap exists, etc. Metro Council held a retreat in August at which one of the primary subjects discussed was committees. One thing that came out of the retreat was Council's recommendation that a new policy advisory committee be created for Parks. Council President Bragdon's idea is to create one committee that will report directly to the Council and is made up of both citizens-at-large and some high-level parks professionals: park directors, board chairs and/or perhaps even elected officials from some of the jurisdictions. A "discussion draft" was distributed to committee members which included a proposed charge to the newly formed committee to

provide consultation and advice to the Metro Council on (at a minimum) five areas of Parks' concerns. The discussion draft will be presented to GTAC September 10. Desmond pointed out there are a lot of unanswered questions and feedback was sought from RPGAC. The Council is seeking advice

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.