

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 4, 2003

Meeting Notes

Chair, Chris Noble, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other committee members in attendance included Rebecca Banyas, Jay Hamlin, David Manhart, Richard Reynolds and Aleta Woodruff. Also in attendance were the following Metro Parks staff: Jim Desmond, Ron Klein, Jeff Tucker, Laurie Wulf and Pat Sullivan.

Introductory comments and announcements

Jeff Tucker announced that the land use approval process with the City of Portland for the Smith & Bybee Lakes water control structure is progressing. The issue has been brought to this committee for review and approval in the past. The appeal period has passed; no appeals were filed. The project is now scheduled for completion in August or September of 2003.

Chris Noble referred to a suggestion made by the Committee at the Jan 7 RPGAC meeting to send a letter of commendation to Charlie Ciecko. She offered to draft a letter for the committee's approval.

It was suggested that a format be followed which would divide agenda items into old or new business, to more easily follow through on agenda items between meetings.

A discussion on the role of the RPGAC was continued and questions raised such as how can it best provide assistance to the Parks & Greenspaces Dept. and how does staff want the committee to function in relation to the types of issues placed on the agenda.

Councilor Susan McLain reported that committees (such as the Natural Resources Committee), before which issues and proposed resolutions were previously brought to be reviewed before going to the full Council, no longer exist following the transition of Metro's governing body. There will be an informal meeting of the Council held every Tuesday to discuss legislation being considered at the formal Thursday meeting of the Council.

Clackamas County easement request through Mt. Talbert property

Laurie Wulf brought this easement application from Clackamas County Dept. of Transportation before the committee. Its purpose is to allow the construction and maintenance of pedestrian improvements abutting Mather Road. Clackamas County has agreed to pay for Metro staff costs, but requested Metro waive the requirement for the county to pay fair market value of the 10 ft x 600 ft right-of-way appraised at \$3,000. Impact is considered to be extremely minimal; benefits would include increased public safety in the area and facilitating an amenity described in the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District's master plan, i.e. the continuation of the sidewalk. Staff recommendation does not include approval or rejection of the "gifting" of the \$3,000 fair market value. That is an option Council will consider.

A motion was made and passed unanimously that the staff recommendation to grant the easement through Metro property at Mt. Talbert be approved. (It did not include a recommendation for or against the "gifting" the \$3,000 fair market value; a decision which will be left to Metro Council.)

RPGAC FY03-04 Budget Letter to Metro Council

The Committee reviewed revisions of the draft budget letter. A consensus was reached that the earlier version be revised to eliminate any recommendation of cuts to FTE. It was also decided that a significant amount of time at future RPGAC meetings would be devoted to specific viable revenue

sources, for example a grouping of the various entrepreneurial projects mentioned in the letter. Jim Desmond stated such an exercise would be very helpful for him as the new director. Aleta Woodruff reiterated her suggestion to include an article on the availability of cemetery services in the GreenScene. Ron Klein responded that Parks will focus on the Pioneer Cemeteries offerings on the Metro web site which is a better resource for interactive opportunities. A review of current funding sources was requested to be on the agenda of a future meeting as well as information on where grant funding comes from and what it is used for.

Cemetery fees increase, niche wall installation and establishment of Perpetual Care Fund

A proposed ordinance would establish the above changes for Metro's Pioneer Cemeteries. Jeff Tucker introduced the proposal and gave background information on the need for the changes and how they would operate. The niche walls would be installed at both Lone Fir and Douglass Cemetery; the fee increases would pertain to each of the cemeteries. The significant historical and cultural value of the cemeteries was emphasized as well as the need for perpetual care funding.

A motion was made and passed by a unanimous vote to recommend the ordinance as drafted.

Regional Trail System update and request for letter of support for the Fanno Creek Trail Bridge

Mel Huie provided an update on the Regional Trail System. He reported that in the spring, Metro will develop a map of the Regional Trails plus written descriptions of key trails as an insert for the next GreenScene. The map will also now include Vancouver/Clark County, Washington regional trails. This is another example of successful partnership between Metro and the local jurisdictions, Huie pointed out. The same material will also be on the Metro parks web page (www.metro-regional.org) by the end of February or the first of March.

The City of Vancouver, will be hosting an international Discovery Walk on April 25-27, 2003. A brochure will be provided in your March packet.

Request for letter of support for the Fanno Creek Trail Bridge

Huie presented a project summary of the City of Tualatin's application for funding of the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail Bridge over the Tualatin River. Metro and local partners have completed the action plan for the trail. The multi-use trail is nearly one-half complete, with local funding from the 1995 Metro Open Spaces, Parks and Streams bond measure and federal transportation funds. A crucial section is missing, however, which is needed for a bike and pedestrian bridge to cross the Tualatin River. The trail bridge will parallel the existing railroad bridge that currently serves freight trains. For safety reasons, it is considered a good solution for keeping bikers and walkers off the existing railroad bridge.

A letter of support of the City of Tualatin's grant application for funding of the Fanno Creek Greenway Trail Bridge was requested of the RPGAC. The application will be for funds of between \$900,000 to \$1 million from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) under its Transportation Enhancement Program. A draft letter was reviewed by the Committee.

A motion was made and passed by a unanimous vote to approve the letter of support. It will be signed by Chair Noble and submitted to ODOT by tomorrow, February 5.

The next RPGAC meeting is scheduled for March 4 at Metro Regional Center.