

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 21, 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, Sylvia Milne and Aleta Woodruff. Also in attendance were Sheila Toomey and the following Metro Parks staff: Jim Desmond, Jane Hart, Jeff Tucker and Pat Sullivan.

Introductory announcements & comments

Aleta Woodruff read her letter to the editor concerning Charlie Ciecko and his value and contribution to the Regional Parks & Greenspaces Department. Additional comments were made on the change in directorship and the process that was followed to arrive at the change.

A request was made that newly elected **Councilor Brian Newman** receive future copies of the RPGAC meeting notes.

A Trolley Trail Open House will be held Wednesday, January 29 from 5 to 8 pm at the Oak Grove Elementary School Cafeteria. Flyers were distributed.

Jim Desmond, Metro planner Jane Hart and Clackamas County Sheriff Mark Koberstein met with a number of **neighbors of the Trolley Trail** on Saturday, January 18. Not all issues were resolved, but it was a constructive dialogue and the neighbors expressed appreciation for the individual attention and efforts made so far.

Richard Reynolds reported to staff prior to this meeting his conflict in schedule and inability to attend. However, he prepared a memo with his thoughts on and suggestions for addressing budget concerns and asked that it be shared with the other Committee members.

Councilor Susan McLain, in attendance at the meeting, was introduced to Committee members. Having been appointed a liaison to RPGAC, she said she will try to attend as many meetings as possible. She distributed a chart of the new structure of the Metro governing body for future reference.

Desmond relayed to David Bragdon the committee's request that he attends an upcoming meeting. Although his schedule will prevent him from attending in February, Desmond suggested that Chair Noble contact Bragdon's assistant, Pat Manhalter, (797-1709) to make those arrangements.

Budget Review

Jim Desmond reported on recent changes made in the proposed FY 2003-2004 budget and a reduction in possible necessary cuts from \$160,000 to between \$70,000 and \$120,000. The option of cutting the position of master planner, discussed at the previous meeting, has been removed and the master planning of Cooper Mountain has been added back. Desmond proceeded to discuss the summary of latest potential budget cuts. Items reviewed included fire insurance, seasonal employees, one gardener position and the delaying of fund raising for the Diack Nature Center. Also the reduction of the Public Affairs Specialist to .80 FTE will become effective July 1, 2003. As a significant amount of that position's time would have been spent on the nature center project, this cutback was considered acceptable.

Other items reviewed included polling services to assess opinions on future funding issues, and a possible ballot measure in 2004. McLain expressed concerns over required minimum standards for Parks programs and whether proposed cuts would prevent their being met. She also mentioned the

need for comprehensive job descriptions to be included with budget proposals that come before the Council which include cuts in FTE.

The role of the Natural Resources Program was reviewed and it was pointed out that the amount spent per acre in landbanking has been significantly less than projected on newly acquired properties. The importance of ongoing care of these properties was also stressed as a measure to lessen the need for later restoration projects on those properties.

As it has done in previous years, the Committee desires to write a letter regarding the budget to Bragdon, although Desmond indicated there was still time for this input before Bragdon's budget is finalized for presentation to the full Council for consideration. Such a letter is not required prior to the February meeting. McLain urged the Committee to express frankly its concerns, for example, if it felt it could not recommend cuts any deeper than \$115,000 or cuts of certain positions, that that be explicitly stated. The Committee agreed to have a budget letter for review, revision and/or acceptance by the Committee at the next meeting and requested Jeff Tucker's assistance in preparing it based on the Committee's comments at this meeting.

As the Pioneer Cemeteries will likely be on the February agenda, a fact sheet was requested by the Committee to be included in the next packet of materials. Also a single, first-page fact sheet outlining the "big picture" of the proposed budget was thought to be a valuable reference.

Jay Hamlin reminded the Committee that his term will expire March 31, 2003. He offered to compile a review of accomplishments of this Committee over the years. He requested copies of meeting notes for that period for assistance in such a project.