

METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 5, 2002
Meeting Notes

Newly installed Chair, Chris Noble, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other committee members in attendance included newly appointed member Jeffrey Kee, Rebecca Banyas, Sylvia Milne, Richard Reynolds, and Aleta Woodruff. Also in attendance were Jennifer Budhabhatti, Ron Klein, Dan Kromer, Jim Morgan, Jeff Tucker and Pat Sullivan.

Introductory comments and announcements

Jeffrey Kee, who was recently appointed to the Regional Parks & Greenspaces Advisory Committee (RPGAC) by Metro Council as the representative for Multnomah County outside the Metro boundary, was introduced to the Committee as its newest member.

Aleta Woodruff reported on the Committee open spaces field trip which was held Sunday, October 27 and attended by Chris Noble, Rebecca Banyas and Woodruff as well as Ron Klein and Pat Sullivan. The focus this year was on Washington County. Visits were made to the Fanno Creek Greenway, Cooper Mountain and the Tualatin River Greenway. It was judged a worthwhile trip, which gave members a better perspective of open space properties, some of which have been discussed at Advisory Committee meetings. It also provided an added appreciation for the Open Spaces Acquisition Program.

Klein reminded the Committee of the Volunteer Recognition Dinner to be held at the Zoo on November 17 at 5 p.m. Regional Parks wants to demonstrate its appreciation to the RPGAC as a group of citizen volunteers for the important contribution it makes to the Dept. and its programs.

A compilation of summer attendance figures for Blue Lake and Oxbow Regional Parks, Chinook Landing and Glendoveer Golf Course for the years 1999 through 2002 was distributed and discussed by Dan Kromer, Manager of the Parks & Visitor Service Division.

Northwest Natural pipeline easement request on Tualatin River open space

Jim Morgan presented a request from Northwest Natural for a permanent utility easement through Metro-owned property at River Road and Farmington Road near the Tualatin River. The easement would allow the utility to construct and maintain a section of sub-surface 24-inch diameter steel natural gas transmission pipeline on Metro properties known as the Schmidt and Bogden properties. No permanent structures will be erected and the pipeline will be bored underground at a depth of 60 feet. Committee discussion included possible ground disturbance, earthquake resistance, other feasible alternatives and the likelihood (or lack) of the project being approved during the LUR process.

A motion was made that RPGAC endorse the proposed easement as recommended by staff. The motion passed by a vote of four in favor, two abstentions and none opposed. A note for the record was added that, in the future, staff may want to consider the option of sunseting easements requested for proposed development.

Metropolitan Greenspaces Regional System Concept Map

Jennifer Budhabhatti, senior environmental planner for the Parks Dept., gave a presentation on the proposed amended Regional System Concept Map, which will go before Council in December. After providing a capsulized history of the Greenspaces program and its goals, she described the outreach components of the project, the parks and greenspaces inventory that

was taken and the technical review process. Some of the criteria for inclusion in the greenspaces regional system include: ecological values, size, connectivity for wildlife, plant diversity and community access. Budhabhatti noted that the Regional System Concept program is voluntary and not regulatory. At public meetings it was confirmed that citizens rate the protection of the natural environment among their top three priorities. The next steps include obtaining local governments written endorsement of the regional concept map, public review, Metro Council approval and developing a financial strategy.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to endorse the Metropolitan Greenspaces Regional System Concept Map.

FY 03-04 Budget issues and policies

The budget planning process for the fiscal year 2003-04 was outlined by Jeff Tucker, Parks Finance Manager, during which he identified issues and policies related to the budget. A handout provided included budget and policy assumptions and add or cut packages that may be implemented.

At the December Advisory Committee meeting, Tucker will ask for an action to be taken by the Committee on the 2003-04 budget. It may choose such actions as recommending the budget as presented, or with suggestions or not recommending it.

Tucker noted that he may return to the Committee at a later date to discuss an increase in cemetery service costs to establish an operation endowment.

The next RPAGAC meeting will be January 7, 2003, 6:30 p.m. at Metro Regional Center.