

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee

June 4, 2002

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Vice Chair Chris Noble called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Other committee members present were Rebecca Banyas, Rick Charriere, Sylvia Milne and Aleta Woodruff. Also in attendance were Sheilah Toomey (citizen), Charles Ciecko, Ron Klein, Jim Morgan, Fritz Paulus and Pat Sullivan.

Introductory comments and announcements

In the summer edition of the Metro GreenScene, a poem entitled "Oxbow Park" by committee member Aleta Woodruff appears on page 7.

The 16th Annual Great Blue Heron Week is taking place from June 1 through June 9 providing opportunities to explore the region's streams, rivers and forests by bicycle, kayak and trail.

The beginning time for the monthly RPGAC meetings was reconsidered. A consensus was reached to continue meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Sylvia Milne thanked Parks staff for arranging for her to attend the "Where Do We Go from Here?" Conference held at the Oregon Convention Center on March 15. The purpose of the conference was to build public awareness of issues involving growth management. She particularly appreciated the component which encouraged children and parents to think environmentally in everyday situations as well as far-reaching ones.

Charles Ciecko spoke of the recently acquired Portland Trolley Trail, a 6-mile long former streetcar line corridor between Milwaukie and Gladstone. Over the last several years, many local governments, citizens and neighborhood groups approached Metro and North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District (NCPRD) requesting that they purchase the corridor for a future multi-use bike/pedestrian trail. Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces purchased the corridor in December 2001 from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Funding came from the NCPRD local share portion of the 1995 bond measure and will be under the management of NCPRD. Metro will be initiating a planning process for the trail.

Some eager residents and/or users of the corridor, in an effort to create a trail now, initiated unsupervised and illegal activities including clearing, grading, excavating and filling. At Metro's expense, steps have been taken to reverse some of those activities. Staff is now talking with neighbors who have expressed concerns about issues such as access to their properties, sanitation and law enforcement. A meeting will take place on Wed., June 5, between Metro staffers and Thelma Haggemiller and Dick Jones, active citizens of the area, to hear each others' goals and concerns for the trail. Sylvia Milne, resident of Milwaukie, who represents District #2 on the committee, expressed an interest in attending that meeting and was told she would be welcome to participate. Staff was requested to provide an update at the next meeting.

It was reported that the Interlachen Public Utility District (PUD) is developing a wellhead protection plan that will have ramifications for Blue Lake Park. Metro has yet been offered the opportunity to participate in the process.

The Committee voted to request information on the wellhead protection plan from the PUD and obtain an update on its progress (5 in favor, none in opposition).

Recognition of service to Rick Charriere

At the May 7 meeting Ciecko expressed appreciation to the three committee members whose terms expired March 31, 2002. Rick Charriere, who was unable to be present at that meeting, was duly praised this evening for his service to the committee and his tenure as Chair. Charriere has become a staunch advocate for the Parks and Greenspaces Dept. speaking eloquently on issues of livability and the need for stable funding for the program. Charriere was reminded he is welcome to continue his participation on the committee until his replacement has been appointed. It is also hoped he will have the opportunity to participate in the California Condor recovery project in conjunction with the Oregon Zoo, a project in which he has expressed an interest.

Conservation easement and lease exchange on property in Tualatin River Target Area

In 1996 Metro acquired the Stahlke property consisting of 114 acres situated along the Tualatin River. A neighboring landowner, Sam Gotter, has proposed that Metro exchange approximately 1.7 acres of upland on the Stahlke property (in the form of a longterm lease) for 5.3 acres of bottomland on his property (in the form of a permanent conservation and trail easement). Since the conservation easement is perpetual and the lease is only for a term, the difference in value is negligible and amounts to roughly an equal exchange. Staff has determined the proposed lease would not interfere with future park uses for the property and has classified the proposal a win-win situation.

A motion was made the Committee recommend to Metro Council that the project move forward. The vote was five in favor and none in opposition.

Next RPGAC meeting

The next meeting has been re-scheduled from July 2 to July 9. The time will remain 6:30 p.m. and the place Metro room 270.

Committee summer field trip planning

The date and time of day most mutually acceptable to committee members for this event is Sunday afternoon, August 4. An earlier suggestion from Chair Jay Hamlin to focus the trip on the Washington County area received the committee's consensus. Additional plans for the field trip will be determined at the July 9 meeting.