

CMW
Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee

May 7, 2002

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

Chair Jay Hamlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other committee members present were Rebecca Banyas, Julie Garver, David Manhart, Chris Noble and Richard Reynolds. Also in attendance were Sheilah Toomey (citizen), Charles Ciecko, Jim Desmond, Heather Kent, Ron Klein and Patricia Sullivan.

Introductory comments and announcements

Charles Ciecko reported on the Green Heron Award presented to Metro's Parks & Regional Greenspaces program by the Tualatin Riverkeepers in April. The inscription reads: "in recognition of . . . outstanding efforts as public officials working for a healthy Tualatin River watershed."

Recognition of service

Ciecko, on behalf of the parks staff, expressed appreciation to Julie Garver, Rick Charriere and Seth Tane whose RPGAC terms expired on March 31, 2002. These three represent the last of the charter members. Ciecko spoke of the considerable time and effort each of them contributed in making this a successful and valuable organization. The committee has been a tremendous influence on the development of the Parks Department, including work on the 1995 bond measure and formation of target area refinement plans. They have also provided excellent advice to Metro Council on park-related issues over the years. Garver, the one of the three who was present at this meeting, was awarded a plaque recognizing her valuable contribution on the committee representing Clark County. It was also noted that she is welcome to continue in this capacity until her replacement has been appointed, if she so chooses. It is hoped that Charriere and Tane will be able to attend a future meeting at which time awards of appreciation can be presented to them as well.

Council resolution to seek future additional acquisition funding

Pending Resolution 02-3188 declares Metro Council's intention to refer a funding measure to the voters by 2004. The measure would support acquisition, park development and operation and set up an open spaces options process. It is motivated by the fact that Metro Council adopted the \$1 per ton increase on the solid waste excise tax, but with a two-year sunset. The Executive Officer and Council Presiding Officer felt it is important to initiate a dialogue as soon as possible with the general public, special interest groups, local governments and various stakeholders. The topics of discussion would be the notion of a funding measure, possible sources of funding, what the appropriate amount and components of the measure might be. Council is interested in hearing from RPAGAC and GTAC regarding this resolution. Jim Desmond referred to the report from the MPAC sub-committee on parks, also referred to as the Zehren report, which was accepted by Council last year and which called for Metro to continue to play an active role in land acquisition for parks and greenspaces.

A motion was passed by a unanimous vote of committee members present to recommend to Council passage of this resolution.

Newell Creek Canyon utility easement

Laurie Wulf presented information on an application from the City of Oregon City Public Works Dept. for a permanent utility easement on a section of Metro-owned property in the Newell Creek

area. The city is requesting a 20-ft. by 30-ft. utility easement adjacent to the current pump station to build a generator enclosure for an auxiliary power source. This power source would supply the sewage lift station with power during outages to prevent overflows into Newell Creek Canyon. Staff has recommended approval of the application, viewing impacts on Metro property as positive, by preventing any raw sewage from entering Newell Creek, which lies below the wastewater pump station. Metro would ordinarily receive monetary fees based on staff time spent on the easement process. It has, however, received a written request from Oregon City for a waiver of those fees based on the benefits described. Staff has not taken a position on the waiver.

The RPAGAC voted (5-1) to recommend approval of the easement application and of the fee waiver request. Although supporting the easement, one committee member felt it was poor policy to begin waiving easement fees that are the responsibility of local jurisdictions to pay.

Amendments to the Regional Trail System

Heather Kent provided an update on the process of amending the Regionally Significant Trails and Greenway System and the accompanying map. A previous step involved evaluating the criteria to be used to make such a determination. Metro Council approved the criteria on May 31, 2002 with one addition: that the trails will likely receive use by citizens of various areas of the region. Trails being considered are one of two types - new trails not currently on the map or a change of designation from what was a greenway to a greenway trail. These considerations are being coordinated with the affected jurisdictions and it was noted that all jurisdictions are supportive of the concept.

A resolution will be presented to Metro Council proposing amendments to the Regional Trails and Greenways System and Map, involving 18 trails as described in Exhibit A and mapped in Exhibit B of the resolution (copies provided to the committee). Mel Huie discussed the 18 trail projects in detail.

A motion was passed by a unanimous vote of committee members present to recommend passage of the resolution.

Report on the "Where do we go from here?" conference

Ron Klein reported on the conference and workshop, which took place on March 15 and 16 and was well attended by a variety of participants. It was part of an effort to build public awareness of issues involving growth management and was divided into three conference tracks: 1) where do we go from here? 2) can we keep it green? and 3) how can transportation serve our communities? Both Sylvia Milne and Aleta Woodruff attended the conference, although neither was able to be present at tonight's meeting. Woodruff summarized her experiences at the conference and shared her comments by letter.

The next RPAGAC meeting will be June 4, 2002, 6:30 p.m. at Metro Regional Center.