

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
October 2, 2001
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Newly elected Chair Jay Hamlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other committee members present were Rebecca Banyas, Julie Garver, Dave Manhart, Sylvia Milne, Chris Noble and Seth Tane, as well as "honored committee retiree" Jim Battan. Also in attendance were Ron Klein, Patricia Sullivan, Sheila Toomey, Linda Wysong and Jack Peasley of Oregon Equestrian Trails.

Introductory comments and announcements

Ron Klein introduced Rebecca Banyas, newly confirmed committee member representing District 7. He announced that Sylvia Milne has been appointed to another term representing District 2 and Aletta Woodruff has been newly appointed to represent District 6, but was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Klein also announced that the Natural Resources Committee approved the Blue Lake Regional Park Economic Feasibility Study and Facility Design Concept. Before it goes to full Council, a review of the financial analysis incorporated into the plan is being done. The plan had been recommended for approval at this committee's August 7, 2001 meeting with the addition of certain conditions. Those additions and changes were incorporated into the plan as recommended. Copies will be provided to committee members.

Seth Tane suggested that the Goal 5 "White Paper" that has recently come out of the Water Resources Policy Advisory Committee (WRPAC) be made available to the RPAGAC. Its official title is "Metro's Scientific Literature Review for Goal 5 (Revised Draft) August 2001". As Tane's second term on RPAGAC expires on March 31, 2002, he will no longer be able to represent it on the WRPAC. He encouraged anyone interested in taking over the role to review the "White Paper" to familiarize his/herself with the type of work being done.

Election of Committee Vice Chair

Chris Noble was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chair and will automatically succeed to the Chair position in one year.

Service recognition award to Jim Battan

Ron Klein presented an award of appreciation to Jim Battan for his six years of service on the RPAGAC and having served in the position of Committee Chair twice. He has been a member of the committee from its inception and was instrumental in the shaping of Dept. priorities and accomplishing Dept. goals.

Green Ribbon Committee update

Klein reported on the recent establishment of a Green Ribbon Committee (GRC) by resolution of the Metro Council to answer the question "what's next?" Now that many goals of land acquisition have been met and exceeded, this group was charged with identifying 8 to 10 sites to provide some level of public access and capital improvement within three to five years. The GRC is hoping to complete its work by the end of October 2001.

The GRC has identified the top 15 sites. Seven of the sites are trails including Fanno Creek Trail, Springwater Trail (Sellwood to McLoughlin) and Beaver Creek Canyon Trail. Although the sites have been identified, final recommendations have not been made and the committee's task is now to identify revenue sources to accomplish set goals. After GRC makes its recommendation to Metro Council, Klein stressed, the process is just beginning. Before Council makes its final decision, an extensive public involvement process will be followed. Information was provided committee members on the description of the properties, the criteria used in their selection and the system of point allocation employed.

Questions were raised as to who comprises the Green Ribbon Committee. It was explained that each Metro Councilor was given the option to nominate two members as was Executive Officer Burton. The

sixteen members are comprised of representatives of government agencies as well as citizens who have an interest in the future of parks. Among appointed members are the urban naturalist of Portland Audubon Society, a current and a former mayor of cities within the region, a representative of the 40-Mile Loop Trust and a representative of the Home Builders Association. Information on the Green Ribbon Committee is also available on the Metro website: www.metro-region.org. Another questioner asked about the criteria used in the selection of the 15 sites. Among the criteria, according to Klein, are geographic diversity and the readiness of the site to be opened to the public with the planned improvements within the 3 - 5 year goal. The complete list of criteria will be provided the RPAGAC at the next meeting.

Briefing on nominated regional trails

Mel Huie displayed a map of and gave an update on current regional trails. He will return at the November meeting to discuss the "nominated" trails. The Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) is still in the process of determining which to recommend as additions to the Regional Trails and Greenways Map.

Update on TEA-21

In conjunction with the discussion of current and nominated trails, Huie updated the committee on TEA-21 (federal transportation monies) to fund regionally significant trail projects.

Update on OMSI to Springwater Corridor Trail

Huie updated the committee on the OMSI to Springwater Corridor Trail. The design process for the trail is now 60% complete. Linda Wysong, who was present at the meeting, was introduced as an artist who will be creating the "1% for Art" piece of the project. The goal is for the trail, which Huie referred to as a "grand vision" to be completed by the end of 2002.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.