

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
August 7, 2001
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Chair Rick Charriere called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Other Committee members present were Julie Garver, Jay Hamlin, David Manhart, Sylvia Milne, Chris Noble and Richard Reynolds. Also in attendance were Nancy Chase, Heather Nelson Kent, Ron Klein, Patricia Sullivan, Jeff Tucker, Paul Agrimis, Mary Ordal from the City of Hillsboro, Rebecca Banyas, Jean Ridings and Ed Wagner.

Introductory comments and announcements

Ron Klein introduced Rebecca Banyas, who was present to observe the Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee (RPAGAC) "in action". She has applied to replace Jim Battan in representing District 7 on the Committee. The annual change in RPAGAC officers will occur in October. At that time Jay Hamlin will be installed as the new Chair taking over for Rick Charriere. Any committee members interested in serving as Vice Chair for the next year were encouraged to contact Klein. An election will take place at the next meeting with new officers installed in October.

Open Spaces Acquisition Six-Year Report

Nancy Chase of the Open Space Acquisition Division reported on the accomplishments of the program over the last six years. There have been 6,920 regional acres purchased costing \$113 million. Twenty-one million has been spent for local share projects. The report describes each of the regional target areas, the goals and accomplishments of each and provides a summary of the local share projects. A map is also included depicting both the regional and local share projects. Since the report was published, the number of acres purchased regionally has exceeded 7,000. The focus is now where and how to expend the remaining funds (approximately \$12 million).

Klein reported there is going to be a special edition of the Metro GreenScene coming out soon which will focus on the local share component (102 projects) and how the \$25 million allotted to it has been invested throughout the region.

Rock Creek Greenway Management Plan

Mary Ordal of the City of Hillsboro Parks Dept. and Paul Agrimis, a planning consultant for the city, gave a presentation on one of Hillsboro's open space acquisition sites, the Rock Creek Greenway and its proposed management plan. This property was purchased with regional share money, is owned by Metro and managed by the City of Hillsboro through a ten-year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The IGA is renewable for an indeterminate period as long as both parties agree to the terms stated. In both the Open Spaces, Parks and Streams Bond Measure and the IGA, it was specified that before public access to the site is provided a Master Plan/Management Plan must be developed to insure that the resource and the public's investment are protected. Ordal sought questions or concerns raised by the Rock Creek Greenway Management Plan and the advisory committee's recommendation of it if they determined the plan meets the required objectives. Aerial photos and slides were presented of the site. Highlights of the plan include a raised boardwalk to minimize the impact to wetlands and floodplain areas along Rock Creek, a trail crossing on the eastside, conversion of the old horse barn to a view shelter, development of picnic areas and low impact recreational areas, wetlands enhancement, berms to create a buffer between the natural area and adjacent industrial site to the west, parking for 30 cars and an oak savanna to replace pasture. The plan is designed to evoke the rural heritage of the area.

Metro staff recommended approval of the resolution asking Metro Council to amend the IGA between the City of Hillsboro and Metro to reflect that the guiding management tool for this property is the Rock Creek Greenway Management Plan.

A motion was made and passed by the RPAGAC to approve the staff recommendation as stated above. The vote was seven in favor and none in opposition.

Blue Lake Regional Park Economic Feasibility Study and Facility Design Concept

The RPAGAC, having been provided draft copies of the Economic Feasibility Study and Facility Design Concept in advance, was given an informal tour of Blue Lake Park on July 10, 2001 during which the proposed improvements were discussed. Heather Kent asked the committee if, after having read the document and having toured the park, there were questions still needing answers, comments to be made or changes they would like to see made to the plan.

Jean Ridings, a resident of the Blue Lake Park area, expressed her concerns about possible contamination to the Blue Lake aquifer, a drinking water resource. According to Ridings, the development of the golf center described in the plan could have such an adverse impact. She also questioned from where the source of water would come to be used in maintaining the grounds of the golf facility and how severe the resulting depletion of that water source would be. Lastly, she spoke of the loss of open space in the east county area and that this project would add to that loss.

Kent reminded the committee and guests that the golf course is highly conceptual and a great deal of important work would have to be done before the construction of such a facility would be undertaken. She agreed that the concerns raised are valid. Richard Reynolds stated that water quality and other issues would have to be addressed when going through the necessary planning approval process and that statewide goal 5 criteria would have to be met. The level of scrutiny by the agencies involved in permitting this development will be extremely demanding.

A lengthy discussion among committee members resulted in the following recommended additions to the concept plan:

- p. 36 - replace "implementation" with "design and development" in the third line of paragraph four.
- p. 36 - bring golf learning center to RPAGAC at key project milestones to review design and development plans
- add to each section (Lake House, Education Center, Pavilion) that it be identified as a potential location for cultural history interpretation and performance
- Identify partners to assist Metro in creating themes and implementation
- p. 38 - change "Environmental Education shelter" to "Education Shelter"
- Overall plan approval subject to guarantee that any development would only be considered if surface and sub-surface water quality and quantity standards are met.

A motion was made and passed to recommend approval of the plan with the addition of the above conditions. The vote was seven in favor and none in opposition.

Kent announced that Metro Council recently passed a resolution creating a Green Ribbon Committee, which will have the specific charge of identifying 8 to 10 open space sites (which could include trails) to be opened for public use and identifying a funding source to accomplish that. This assignment is scheduled to be completed by Oct 16, 2001. RPAGAC members expressed disappointment that no one among them was invited to participate on the new committee. Kent spoke of a making a request to Council that RPAGAC be involved at some in the process.

A celebration of the six year report and the accomplishments it publicizes will take place Tues., Sept 11 at 7:00 pm at the zoo. The newly created Green Ribbon Committee will be introduced. Kent pointed out this will be a good opportunity to meet them and provide input.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.