

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
October 5, 1999
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

New Committee Chair Jim Battan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present, in addition to Battan, were: Bob Akers, Rick Charriere, Julie Garver, John Griffiths, Jay Hamlin, Mike Reid, Richard Reynolds, Brian Scott and Seth Tane. Also in attendance were Charles Ciecko, Barb Edwardson, Ron Klein and Patricia Sullivan.

Introductory Comments and Announcements

The Open Space Tour, which was held on Sunday, September 26th, provided committee members an opportunity to see four newly acquired sites and perceive first-hand the progress being made in the acquisition program. As it was considered a great success, the suggestion was made that the tours be held for the committee twice a year, in the spring and fall. Ron Klein noted it may also be helpful to visit some of Metro's existing park facilities, such as Howell Territorial Park, Oxbow Regional Park or Broughton Beach, that have been master planned and are in the process of implementing those plans. A consensus was reached that the "spring trip" will focus on master planning implementation at existing facilities.

A ten-year extension of the Glendoveer Golf Course management contract with GSR, Inc. has been approved in exchange for \$1 million in capital improvements, according to Charles Ciecko. The first phase of those are completed and include ten new tee boxes and two water hazards.

Bob Akers traveled recently to King County, Washington with Mel Huie, Metro senior planner, to observe the progress made in the trails program in that area. It was suggested Huie make a 10 minute presentation at a future meeting on what was learned.

Open Spaces Quarterly Acquisition Report Ending

Barbara Edwardson, real estate negotiator for the Parks Dept., presented the Open Spaces Quarterly Report on acquired properties as of October 5, 1999. Since July, ten properties have been purchased totalling 431 acres. One purchase of note, referred to as the River Island Sand & Gravel property, totals 239 acres with 4,700 feet of Clackamas River frontage. It contains ponds, wetlands and important juvenile salmon-rearing habitat. Parker-Northwest Paving Co. donated 130 acres of the 239, making it the largest donation to date.

Parks and Greenspaces Local Share Update

Many local park providers requested additional time to complete local share projects identified prior to passage of bond measure 26-26 in 1995. Metro entered into intergovernmental agreements (IGA)s with recipients of those funds initially for three years ending on September 1, 1998. At that time a one year extension was granted to expire December 31, 1999. Eleven out of 26 jurisdictions have completed their projects and expended their funds. A number of the remaining jurisdictions have not completed projects due to a variety of circumstances. The Parks Department is proposing to extend those requests for another year. This proposal will be on the agenda for the Operations Committee on October 6th and will likely go to Metro Council two weeks later. Ciecko noted the map included in the meeting packet of local and regional projects impressively demonstrates how wide spread the projects are throughout the region.

Local Parks & Inventory & Database

Jane Hart and Mark Bosworth presented information on the recently completed region-wide parks inventory, demonstrating how it can be used as a planning tool. Metro received funding and staff support from the majority of local park jurisdictions for this project. The goals of the parks inventory update were 1) to implement the policy of the regional framework plan that calls for Metro to update the previous 1988 inventory, 2) to be able to detect change in the provision of park services in the last ten years and 3) to establish a benchmark so that future trends in park supply and demand can be tracked. The process will now include an update at least every five years. The inventory will serve as a baseline which local jurisdictions can use to develop level of service standards for their parks. Plans are for access to the database online to occur by spring.

Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Facility Plan

The proposed Facility Plan was presented by Emily Roth, Metro wildlife area manager. It calls for:

- a new gateway entry and a multiple-use trailhead located at an area just south of the Marine Drive overpass, and west of the railroad yards. This will allow Metro to consolidate infrastructure (such as toilet, kiosks and parking) with one entrance/exit.
- a parking area which is level, relatively inexpensive to develop and largely sheltered from highway noise. Boaters, cyclists, walkers and anglers will be able to share it.
- a boat launch which will be located directly south of the proposed parking area. The boat launch will provide direct access to Smith Lake without a portage and will not impact important wildlife use areas.

This design concept provides a strong sense of immediate entry into a wildlife area in contrast to the industrial land uses along North Marine Drive. The Facility Plan has an estimated cost of \$340,000. Although a trust fund exists for the management of the lakes, drawing from the principal is intended only for the purchase of property within the management area, therefore outside funding is being sought. A variety of options were discussed. A motion was passed by the Advisory Committee recommending approval of the Facilities Plan as recommended.

FY 2000-01 Budget Issues and Options

A list of budget issues and options for each division within the Parks Dept. was distributed to the committee initiating a discussion led by Charles Ciecko. The department has been requested to submit budget issues to the Executive Officer, which will then be forwarded to Metro Council. Appropriate directives will be issued by the Council prior to preparation of the budget. One of the highlighted issues: the probability of the exhaustion of funding for Capital Improvement Projects within two years. Being considered is obtaining some level of funding from the Metro general fund as an interim strategy until outside funding can be secured. A number of possibilities were raised by the committee including industry contacts, obtaining the services of a grant writer and an endowment program. At the next advisory committee meeting, following further discussion, the committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the Council.

Related to Metro's budget in general, Rick Charriere raised the issue of solid waste tipping fees, and in particular, a comparison of Seattle's and Portland's. Ciecko will research this further and advise the committee of his findings.

Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee By-Laws

The July 1999 updated version of the RPAGAC by-laws were approved in a motion passed by the committee.

The next meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, January 4, 2000 at Metro Regional Center, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m.