

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
July 6, 1999 Summary Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Chair John Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present, in addition to Griffiths, were: Jim Battan, Rick Charriere, Sylvia Milne and Seth Tane. Also in attendance were Jim Desmond, Heather Nelson Kent, Jennifer Budhabhatti, Patricia Sullivan, Peter Teneau, Richard L. Meyer and Richard Reynolds.

Citizen Communications

Peter Teneau, a citizen activist in North Portland, spoke of concerns for Expo property which he reported is being considered as the location for a new regional amphitheater. He presented a paper detailing land use issues involved, particularly from an environmental perspective. Jim Desmond pointed out that this is not a Metro regional park facility, but is a MERC (Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission) facility. MERC has its own board appointed by the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Metro. It oversees the management of Expo, among other facilities. It was suggested Peter might ask to speak to the Operations Committee, a Metro committee before whom matters involving MERC would come first, prior to appearing before Metro Council.

Richard L. Meyer, a long-time Portsmouth resident, also spoke on the possible siting of an amphitheater at the Expo Center. His point was that if MERC is involved in any proposal to pave over a five-plus acre area that is currently green space for such a structure (amphitheater, parking lot, etc.), it would be counter to the "thrust" of the 1995 Bond Measure 26-26. Richard sees Metro's role as a steward of the land and that this committee's role is to challenge presenters of any such proposals to prove that giving away these greenspaces would be an acceptable political action demonstrating responsible economic and environmental stewardship.

A motion was made by Seth Tane and passed that:

The Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee expresses its concern to both MERC and Metro Council that in any consideration of this project (Expo property being considered as the location for a new regional amphitheater), the following issues be considered: connectivity, water run-off/drainage and land use and that RPAGAC has the opportunity to review and comment on further developments in regards to this project.

Open Spaces Acquisition Quarterly Report ending June 30, 1999

Jim Desmond provided data on acquisitions made during the final quarter of the fiscal year. A total of 522 acres representing 43 acquisitions were completed. Significant purchases included 147 acres at the confluence of the Tualatin River and Gales Creek, 1,315 feet of frontage on the east side of the Sandy River and a 73-acre "hole in Forest Park". Probably the most significant activity, however, according to Jim, was making presentations to community organizations such as friends groups and neighborhood associations. Fifty-six presentations were given to over 1000 people featuring a slide show portraying accomplishments made since the bond measure passed. The finalized quarterly report will be mailed to committee members with the July meeting notes.

Richard Reynolds, candidate for the committee representing Washington County outside Metro boundary, was introduced.

Parks and Natural Areas Regional System, Phase II

Jennifer Budhabhatti gave a presentation which included an introduction to the work plan for Phase II of the Regional System. This represents an update of the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan. Tools used to accomplish that plan included acquisition, environmental education and restoration. Tools to be utilized for Phase II of the Regional System will be inventory, analysis and development of regulatory and non-regulatory measures. A financial component is also part of the package. An inventory of the urban forest canopy, just completed, will provide good baseline data. A Parks and Natural Areas Policy Compendium was also created which summarizes national, local and state-wide programs that do a commendable job of protecting natural resources. Jennifer elaborated further on the tasks required to complete Phase II. These included:

- review of the policy compendium
- review and analysis of natural area maps
- define and map existing regionally significant natural areas
- identify deficient areas
- propose criteria for addressing deficiencies
- identify and map Regional System (this will have a public involvement component)

Jennifer was asked to make a presentation at a future committee meeting when Phase III is underway. Committee members also requested they be provided with a copy of the policy compendium and of the forest canopy cover map for their reference.

Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee By-Laws

The committee reviewed the revised/updated version of the by-laws based on recommendations made at the June meeting. One further suggestion referred to Article V which defines the number of committee members necessary to constitute a quorum while no reference is made in the by-laws as to when a quorum is required. A consensus was reached that the following be added to Article IV (not to Article V): *Any vote taken by the committee shall be conducted by a quorum of the committee.*

Nominations for Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee Vice-Chair

Of those members in attendance, Rick Charrierre expressed an interest in the position of vice chair. It was decided members not in attendance will be polled as well (by phone) for their interest in the position. A ballot will be mailed out to committee members prior to the next meeting.

Date for September Parks and Open Spaces Tour

The date for the tour was narrowed to one of the following Sunday afternoons: September 12, 19 or 26. Those in not attendance will also be polled for their availability for the tour. Details will be mailed at a later date.

Other

Seth Tane offered to present a WRPAC update at a future meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, Oct 5, 1999, at Metro Regional Center, beginning at 6:00-ish (details to follow). There will be no August meeting. In lieu of the September meeting, the parks and open spaces tour will be conducted (more details to follow).