

**Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee**  
**May 4, 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 6:05 p.m. Present, in addition to Griffiths, were: Bob Akers, Rick Charriere, Julie Garver, Sylvia Milne, Mike Reid and Seth Tane. Also in attendance were Jim Desmond, Ron Klein and Patricia Sullivan.

**Introductory Comments and Announcements**

- Great Blue Heron Week is being celebrated this week. Part of the festivities include Smith & Bybee Lakes Days which will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. The best way to experience the lakes is by canoe, according to Ron Klein. Canoe trips will be led by Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes both Saturday and Sunday.
- A group of Centennial High School students studying environmental issues travelled to Smith & Bybee Lakes last month. Bob Akers reported the students are still "buzzing" about the great experience. A packet of thank-you notes for James Davis, Metro naturalist, was presented.
- Jim Desmond, in discussing open spaces land acquisitions, announced the closing on the Ramsey property sometimes referred to as the "hole in Forest Park". John Sherman of Friends of Forest Park deserves a good deal of the credit for this long-worked-for transaction taking place.
- The City of West Linn contacted Metro about the Lazy River property, an eleven acre parcel of land situated at the north side of West Linn. Current owners/developers are applying for permits to proceed with development, so timing is critical. The mayor of West Linn requested Metro use \$200,000 from regional open space funds to make up the shortfall to purchase the property. Metro is not in accord with this proposal for two reasons: (1) West Linn is likely to use a condemnation process to acquire the property and (2) it is not within a target area (either Tier 1 or Tier 2) nor is it a riverfront site, situated one half mile from the Willamette River.

An alternative consideration involves property adjacent to Burnside Park in West Linn which could be a key addition to it. The owner is a willing seller, wanting the property preserved and not developed, although negotiations have been ongoing for about three years. There is no rush to come to terms. This site is riverfront property, still not within a target area, but closer to one than the Lazy River property (Willamette Narrows target area).

The idea being considered involves West Linn using \$200,000 from its local share funds to make up the shortage to purchase the Lazy River property and Metro "backfilling" that amount by contributing between \$200,000 to a maximum of \$375,000 from regional funds for the riverfront property adjacent to Burnside Park. In either of these two scenarios an amendment to the Willamette Narrows refinement plan would be required although philosophically the latter would be a better fit for target area requirements.

Jim Desmond did not ask the committee to vote on such an arrangement but rather if any 'fatal flaws' were apparent. There was a preference to keep as open space as much property as possible to which Metro contributed funds for purchase. Other response was favorable.

- A suggestion was made to consider applying for a grant to create an historical and instructional record of the method and results of acquisition efforts by the dept. Those efforts have been lauded as "one of the most ambitious open spaces protection efforts under way in any region of the country." In addition to documentation of technical expertise, it was considered valuable to preserve some of the stories of sellers willing to preserve their natural heritage and anecdotes of the actual sales.

### **Revision of by-laws of the Regional Parks & Greenspaces Advisory Committee**

Ron Klein presented proposed revisions to the by-laws which better reflect how the dept. and the Advisory Committee function today. Klein sought input as to whether the suggested changes are appropriate and comprehensive. He emphasized there were no changes in philosophy.

One primary proposed change is replacing references to the 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan with the Regional Framework Plan and the Parks and Natural Areas Protection Plan. Other suggested revisions clarify tenure of committee members. A discussion ensued on additional wordsmithing and on the role of the Metro Councilor as a non-voting member acting in a liaison capacity. Klein will refer the final version to the committee at the next meeting for a vote. It will then be presented via resolution to the Metro Council for adoption.

### **Letter of support to U. S. congressional delegation for federal funding to preserve, protect and enhance parks, open spaces, fish and wildlife habitat, trails and recreational facilities**

The letter drafted by Metro staff was approved as submitted and signed by all committee members present. They will be mailed to the Oregon and southwest Washington congressional delegations with the exception of Rep. Greg Walden from eastern and central Oregon. It was decided a separate letter emphasizing different points would be better received by him.

The 'premier' of the **Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces slide show** was held during the committee meeting. Klein provided narration and requested feedback as editing is still being done. The slides feature highlights of Metro facilities, programs and volunteer opportunities. They will be available for presentation to various civic, environmental and educational groups in an effort to involve the public with the Regional Framework Plan.

The next meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, July 6, 1999, at Metro Regional Center, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m.