

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
March 2, 1999 Summary Meeting Notes
6:00 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: Jim Battan, Rick Charriere, Julie Garver, Mike Reid, and Seth Tane. Also in attendance were Charlie Ciecko, Ron Klein, Heather Nelson Kent, Patricia Sullivan and Julie Weatherby. Interested citizens included: Chris Miller and Nathan Butz.

Announcements

John Griffiths brought to the committee's attention an issue related to **two parcels of land adjacent to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park** in east Washington County. The northern 22-acre parcel called Aspen Woods is surrounded on 3 sides by the park. The second parcel is 19 acres near the southern end. These two sections are separated by a leg of the existing park referred to as Beaverton Creek corridor. The parcels, owned by the Archdiocese of Portland, have been optioned for development. Griffiths perceived this as incompatible land use, bringing together too many people with no buffer between the development and the park.

The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to "go on record as being in support of the inclusion of two parcels (described above) into the existing Tualatin Hills Nature Park." The motion further recommended that the City of Beaverton "permitting authorities carefully consider natural resources within the parcels prior to making any planning decisions".

Charles Ciecko spoke of the continuing **budget process**. The Executive Officer has essentially accepted the budget as submitted by the Dept. and recommended by the Advisory Committee. Subsequently a meeting was held with Council representatives, Presiding Officer Rod Monroe and Council analysts in which a discussion on the issue of funding was broached. A communication from P. O. Monroe should be received in the near future outlining the process he envisions to begin to address this issue.

Thursday, March 4th, Metro staffers will be meeting with representatives from the **Oregon Parks Foundation** to continue work on negotiating a partnership for a fund raising effort for the Diack Nature Center identified in the Oxbow Park Master Plan.

Ron Klein reported on the presence of Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Dept. at the **Home & Garden Show** at the Expo Center the weekend of February 27th. Visitors to the booth, numbering 1,737, were presented with information on invasive species (referred to in the material as "alien invaders") and on native replacements .

Public Involvement for the Blue Lake Regional Park Master Plan

Julie Weatherby, project manager, made a presentation on this topic and provided background material. Slusarenko Architecture was hired as a consultant to lead the team that will be developing the Master Plan. Weatherby's presentation included the major theme which is to develop Blue Lake Park for wildlife and people. Among objectives mentioned were to increase year-around use, capacity and revenue; to enhance habitat and wetland features; and to create a "gateway" to Metro's regional park system.

Weatherby spoke of the make-up of the Project Advisory Committee, which will include Bob Akers representing the RPAGAC, the role it will play and a possible meeting schedule. A

project timeline created by Slusarenko Architecture was distributed breaking out the time frame for Project Initialization, Issues and Needs Assessment and the Facility Use Development. The actual writing of the Master Plan is proposed to begin in mid-May following a series of reviews, committee meetings and public meetings. The 31st of March is a tentative date for the first public meeting to be held in Gresham. (*That meeting has been postponed; a re-schedule date has not yet been set.*) Weatherby anticipates updating the RPAGAC at the September meeting.

Products that are expected to come out of this process include an Education and Interpretation Plan, Operations and Maintenance Efficiency Study to highlight best management practices and a Revenue and Development Plan.

Re-Allocation of Multnomah County Local Share Funds

Charlie Ciecko provided an overview, referring to Measure 26-26, which includes \$25 million in local share funds. Multnomah County's share, as a parks provider, was \$3.4 million. Metro was delegated the authority to implement Multnomah County identified projects and administer its share of local funds in the IGA which transferred Multnomah County Parks to Metro. Due to a variety of circumstances, Metro is in a position to consider re-allocating some of those dollars. Specifically, land has been acquired with other funds and projects have been completed under budget, e.g. - Burlington Bottoms. In order to re-allocate dollars, the IGA requires that Metro consult with Multnomah County before selecting other projects. A letter has been sent to Multnomah County informing them of this situation and suggesting projects to be considered; their response is awaited.

Additionally, the bond measure covenants require a process for re-allocation of funds that includes a public meeting and subsequent findings; citizens have the opportunity to participate in this decision. The Advisory Committee is the first step in that process.

Heather Nelson Kent spoke of the original Multnomah County Local Share Project List and the proposal for funds to be re-allocated for key projects which are under-funded at Howell Territorial Park and Oxbow Regional Park. Projects which have been identified for the two parks, according to Nelson Kent, include completion of campground improvements at Oxbow, such as flush toilets and showers and providing paved parking, restroom facilities, a picnic shelter and paved trail to the shelter at Howell Territorial.

Seth Tane made a motion that the committee endorse the proposed resolution for the re-allocation of Multnomah County local share funds among existing projects. Julie Garver seconded the motion.

Discussion included Ciecko's reminder that unmet funding needs are beginning to rise in the eyes of the Council as an issue that needs to be addressed. There is no proposed solution on the Council's table yet, although the RPAGAC recommended the creation of a tax study committee to examine the issue, specifically to look at an auto rental tax or some other type of funding source that could be used for these and other parks needs as well.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.