

**METRO REGIONAL PARKS AND GREENSPACES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RPAGAC)  
MEETING NOTICE**

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**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 1998  
**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30PM  
**Place:** Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland  
Room 270

**AGENDA**

- I. Introductory comments and announcements (5 minutes)
  
- II. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces  
Director's Requested Budget for FY 99/00 (80 minutes)
  - 1. Department budget overview, highlights & issues (Charles Ciecko, Director)
  - 2. Operation and Maintenance Division (Dan Kromer, Division Manager)
  - 3. Planning and Education Division (Heather Nelson-Kent, Division Manager)
  - 4. Open Spaces Acquisition Division (Jim Desmond, Division Manager)
  
- III. Adjourn

**Committee discussion and recommendation**

Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces department prepared a draft FY 99/00 budget document that is currently under review by Metro Financial Planning. A Director's Requested Budget will be submitted to the Executive Office in early December. Charles Ciecko and department division managers will present the FY 99/00 budget and discuss the issues, challenges and new projects for the next fiscal year. The advisory committee will have an opportunity to review, discuss and make recommendations before the budget is submitted to the Executive Office.

**Next RPAGAC meeting will be on January 5, 1999 Metro Regional Center, 6PM**

## **Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Advisory Committee**

December 17, 1998

Mike Burton, Executive Officer  
Metro  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Burton:

On December 1, 1998, the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee (RPAGAC) met to review and generate recommendations related to the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Dept. Requested Budget for FY 99-00. Prior to the meeting, the committee had the opportunity to review the budget document, highlights of which were presented during the meeting by Charles Ciecko and the Division Managers. It was pointed out that impacts of general fund support reduction will include elimination of the Blue Lake Concert series, the Sandy River raft trips, reductions to capital maintenance projects and greater reliance on fund balance to meet basic department needs.

Although the committee supports the requested budget for FY 99-00, we have serious concerns about the evident trends. The lack of a stable funding source is moving towards a serious impairment of the department's ability to continue to provide current service levels. At the same time, we note that the department is now "landbanking" nearly as many acres as are operated for some level of public use. We are very concerned that the process of identifying and implementing a source (or sources) of funding for planning, improvement, operation and maintenance of landbanked properties has not yet commenced. Consequently, we are again urging you and the Metro Council to begin the process to identify a long-term, stable funding source to support the growing system of Regional Parks and Natural Areas. Our committee is prepared to assist you in this effort.

On another topic, we discussed the future of the Open Spaces Acquisition Division. As Metro approaches 4,000 acres of the 6,000 acre goal, we concurred that it is time to begin considering the future of this division. Our primary conclusions include:

- a) Metro has assembled an efficient and effective acquisition team which is unique in the region and probably the nation. Serious consideration should be given to maintaining this team for continued implementation of Chapter 3 of the Regional Framework Plan and associated functional plans.

- b) Metro should explore marketing the services of the acquisition team to local park providers or other natural resource agencies desiring to purchase land in the Portland region. Such an effort, however, should be carefully planned so as to avoid distracting attention from the primary purpose of the Open Spaces Acquisition Division.
- c) A strategic planning effort should be undertaken within a year to develop a proposal for extending the acquisition effort beyond measure 26-26. Acquisition of land for regional parks and natural resource conservation purposes should not end with the expenditure of current bond funds.

Citizen values such as access to nature, clean air and water and recreation opportunities are fundamental to our quality of life. They are critically important to the concept of livable communities. We urge you to maintain and enhance the momentum which has been established over recent years.

On behalf of the entire membership, thank you for consideration of our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

John Griffiths  
Chair

cc: Bob Akers  
Sylvia Milne  
Jay Hamlin  
Mike Reid  
Brian Scott  
Jim Battan  
Rick Charriere  
Seth Tane  
Faun Hosey  
Julie Garver