

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
November 3, 1998 Summary Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Chair John Griffiths called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present, in addition to Griffiths, were: Bob Akers, Jim Battan, Rick Charriere, Syliva Milne, Mike Reid, Seth Tane, Charlie Ciecko, Heather Nelson Kent, Emily Roth, Ron Klein, and Pat Sullivan.

Introductory Comments & Announcements

Bob Akers: A **prestigious honor**, the Doug Newman Memorial Oregon Recreation Trails Achievement Award, will be bestowed on **Mel Huie** of Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces, along with Barbara Walker of the 40-Mile Loop Trail, later this month in Salem. Akers noted that the committee should be aware of Huie's outstanding achievements over the last several years, particularly those on the OMSI to Springwater Corridor and the 40-Mile Loop Trail.

Department Administrative Update

Charlie Ciecko reported on the status of the **Glendoveer Golf Course management contract**. Executive Officer Mike Burton asked the Finance Dept. to take another independent look at the work begun in 1997 by the original ad hoc committee to review GSR's proposed management contract extension. Subsequently, Metro Council approved the contract extension as recommended by the ad hoc committee and the Parks Advisory Committee. According to the provisions, GSR will receive a 10-year extension of the management agreement in return for \$1 million in capital improvements to be completed within 4 years from the date of Council's final action. In addition, thanks to the efforts of Chair Griffiths, the Dept. will receive \$115,000 in cash on or before June 30, 1999 for the park project of Metro's selection. The project choice will, of course, also come before this Committee.

Two additional provisions were added following the Finance Dept.'s review. 1) elimination of the right of first refusal provision and 2) addition of a provision that allows Metro to terminate the agreement in the event of a significant change in the corporation (GRS, Inc.) or a significant change in its top management. GSR, Inc. has agreed to the new provisions; the language/format of the contract agreement is now being finalized.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the **Blue Lake Regional Master Plan** has been announced. A pre-bid meeting will be held November 4th, bids are due on November 16th and plans are to execute the contract sometime between mid and late December with work beginning after the first of the year, 1999.

Ciecko also reported on the **RFP for the design and engineering phase of the M. James Gleason Boat Ramp**. The Parks Dept. was successful in obtaining a \$200,000 grant from the State Marine Board for the design and engineering phase. Council will consider approval of the RFP, Thursday, November 5th. If approved, it will be released shortly thereafter. The contract for the RFP will not be executed until after the land deal with Port of Portland is approved.

Further Dept. updates included the **region-wide parks inventory** called for in the Regional Framework Plan. The inventory form has been designed, tested by the City of Troutdale Parks Dept. and subsequently produced in its final form. An intern has been hired to work with Jane Hart on the project. Very soon the survey inventory forms will be disbursed to all local park providers. A mass of data is expected to be obtained and digitized. The hope is to have the project completed by the end of this fiscal year. Heather Nelson Kent noted that ideally the information produced by the survey would be accessible on the Web.

Ciecko also indicated during the Dept. update that there had been no formal response from Metro Council to the September 21, 1998 letter from the Parks Advisory Committee requesting the

appointment of a tax study committee. The committee was to consider methods of enhancing funding for Greenspaces Department facilities and programs and in particular a potential regionwide auto rental tax.

Ciecko concluded his presentation with highlights from Park events held during the last month:

Oct 3rd – Peninsula Crossing Trail Grand Opening Celebration – The trail is the only capital project on the regional portion of the 1995 bond measure. Despite atrocious weather, approximately 175 people attended what turned out to be a tremendous event. The celebration dedicated the opening of an important 1.5 mile segment of the trail. It was designed largely with input from the neighbors of the area who feel a very real ownership of the site.

Oct 10th and 11th – The 15th Annual Salmon Festival – Sponsors put on another excellent event this year. Despite extremely positive responses from participants, attendance was less than anticipated necessitating a re-examination of marketing strategies. The salmon bake raised \$7,600 which will go into the Oxbow Park Nature Center fund. On December 8th, Metro will be making an appeal to the Oregon Parks Foundation for it becoming a project partner in a fund raising effort to produce the balance required. The fund has "good seed money" at this point and initially, the Foundation has expressed interest in such a in partnering. It would be advantageous having the Foundation as a co-signer on grant applications.

Oct 17th – A major press event took place at Chinook Landing having major significance for the Oregon-Washington region. Representatives of the federal government announced appropriations for a \$250 million program to assist farmers and ranchers in improving riparian habitat. The intention is to entice the agricultural community to becoming involved at a more active level in the restoration of such habitat. The hope is, if successful, there would be a companion measure in the future for urban areas. Thanks go to Janelle Geddes and Ron Klein for responding to the requests from various government agencies in staging this event on extremely short notice.

Multnomah County Jail Siting Proposal

Copies of "Frequently Asked Questions" (and their answers) and of the "New Jail Newsletter", produced by Multnomah County, were distributed to Committee members providing background information on the jail siting. Emily Roth gave a presentation on the potential jail site at North Rivergate and its proximity to the Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. The latter, a 2,000 acre natural area, is the largest urban freshwater wetland in the country. Part of the Columbia Slough watershed, it is situated at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

The Port of Portland has offered to sell a small 22-acre parcel at the tip of what is known as Ledbetter Peninsula to Multnomah County for its jail site. A 60-day study is underway to determine the feasibility of such a site. If approved, the plan is for a one year design process, with construction to begin in the year 2000 and the jail opening to occur in 2001. The initial phase will produce a one-story facility to hold 250 inmates. It will include a perimeter road circling the entire facility, a fence constructed inside the road and a vegetative buffer. An expanded 2000-bed facility, 45 feet tall, 2 stories high and covering an area of 22 acres is expected at "build-out". If this property must be developed, it is hoped a 'good neighbor' is found; Multnomah County, it is believed, would be such a neighbor. Jails, it was noted, are an accepted use within industrial zones.

Further discussions included the following concerns: 1) the affect on the Western painted turtles, waterfowl and other wildlife, 2) issues of lighting and treatment of storm water during and after construction, 3) impact on the 40-Mile Loop Trail, 4) difficulty in establishing vegetative buffers in sand, 5) possibility of inclusion of a formal boat launch as an amenity for the wildlife area and 6) the fact that the Port can't sell the property until the suit brought by M. Jones against the Port is settled.

Ciecko stressed the importance of being involved in the initial stages of such a lengthy process. He observed the Committee has identified initial points of concern but others are likely to emerge. A consensus was reached that a representative from the Parks Advisory Committee should participate on the citizens working group to be formed to offer advice on design, planning, construction and operation of the new jail. Bob Akers volunteered his services, and Mike Reid offered to act as alternate.

Metro Regional Parks Partnership with American Basketball League (Portland Power)

Ron Klein entered into an arrangement with the Portland Power making Regional Parks & Greenspaces one of its 'causes'. Funds raised will go towards the Nature Center to be constructed at Oxbow Regional Park. February 12, 1999 will be *Metro Greenspaces Night* at the Portland Power vs. Philadelphia game at the Memorial Coliseum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, December 3, 1998, at 6 p.m., in the Metro Regional Center.