

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

New 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, Jay Hamlin, Faun Hosey, Syliva Milne, Mike Reid, Brian Scott, Jim Desmond, Karen Feher, Ron Klein, Heather Nelson Kent, and Pat Sullivan.

Announcements

Bob Akers reported on the "grand opening" celebration for the Peninsula Crossing Trail held Sat., October 3rd. Particularly heartening was the obvious enthusiasm shown by neighborhood kids who were present in significant numbers. Akers expressed appreciation to the Regional Parks & Greenspaces Dept. for its five years of hard work invested in the trail project. Souvenir water bottles from the celebration were distributed to the Committee.

Quarterly Open Spaces Acquisition Update

- According to Jim Desmond, the FY 98-99 goal for Open Spaces acquisitions is 1,000 acres. First quarter acquisitions totalled 301 acres.
- One of the largest purchases was the 236 acre parcel from Longview Fibre Company. Located on Gordon Creek, it includes very high quality fish habitat.
- The first design workshop will be held November 4th for the OMSI to Springwater Corridor Trail. Funds are committed for construction by the City of Portland.
- One or two of the regional target areas could be re-examined in the next 12 – 24 months if original goals continue to be unattainable. Burlington Northern Rails-to-Trails, for example, is an area that may need re-evaluating.

FY 99-00 Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Budget Process

Karen Feher gave an introduction to the budget process noting that the Requested Budget must be submitted to Charlie Ciecko before November 16th. She highlighted two issues in particular to be considered.

1. There is an expected dip in the excise tax which will likely affect the Administrative Division and Planning & Education Division of the Parks Dept. most severely. Projections indicate as much \$100,000 over two years could be lost.
2. The contract with Metropolitan Exposition-Recreation Commission (MERC) is up for renewal. If that does not occur, impact will be felt agency-wide.

Mike Reid stressed the advantage of an accounting system which included a balance sheet to reflect such entries as donations of land, volunteer labor, or increases in land value through restoration projects. This could streamline any grant writing efforts. He also alluded to the benefits of establishing a Parks & Greenspaces foundation.

Committee Letter to Metro Council regarding Long Term Funding Sources

After reviewing the draft version of the letter, the Committee made the following changes/additions:

- a reference to a time limit on the tax study committee
- a projection of the amount of funding that could be raised by an auto rental tax
- how far such a tax might go toward delaying a draw-down

Metro staff will make the specified changes and forward to Griffiths for signature by Wednesday, October 7th.

Clackamas County Right-of-Way Request for Sunnyside Road Improvements at Mt. Talbert

Julie Weatherby presented a report of issues, findings and recommendations on Clackamas County Department of Transportation's (CDOT) proposal for a right of way acquisition needed to complete the Sunnyside Road expansion project. This project will take approximately 3,000 sq ft from the Mt. Talbert property that fronts Sunnyside Road. The land in question is owned jointly by Metro and North Clackamas Parks District (NCPD).

One step in the process is the signing by the landowners of a *Programmatic 4(f)* document which is required due to federal funding on the project and the fact that the property is designated as 'natural resource land'. The document will be included in the environmental assessment report and will stipulate the taking of the property will not have a significant impact on it. The next step in the process is to present the *Programmatic 4(f)* to Metro Council for approval, along with a recommendation from the Regional Parks Advisory Committee to allow the right of way.

Weatherby reported that this process falls under a policy developed by Regional Parks & Greenspaces Dept. in the last six months to address right of way/ easement issues on park land.

The discussion that followed included these points:

- There is a Mt. Scott Creek Trail system plan already included in the Regional Comprehensive Plan for North Clackamas Parks.
- This procedure would be precedent setting.
- Heather Nelson Kent offered that by signing the *4(f)* with conditions, it will provide further guarantees of access.

Faun Hosey moved that the Committee approve signing the *Programmatic 4(f)* with the following conditions:

- 1) Access be provided from 117th that is equal/comparable to existing access.
- 2) Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Dept. work with Metro Transportation Dept. to generate the best language to insure this pedestrian modality along Mt. Scott Creek where Sunnyside Road now crosses it.

3)

Mike Reid seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion noted:

- Charriere - preferred additional time to examine the material; averse to a "time is of the essence" guideline; wanted to assure the committee is acting as steward.
- Reid – considered the "best language" referred to in the second condition to contain the "best science".
- Hosey – believed the process, findings and recommendation have been well thought out.

The motion passed by a vote of seven in favor, none in opposition and two abstentions. (In favor – Hamlin, Griffiths, Battan, Reid, Scott, Hosey, and Milne; Abstaining – Charriere and Akers.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, November 4, 1998, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Metro Regional Center.