

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

Present: Seth Tane, John Griffiths, Brian Scott, Faun Hosey, Mike Reid, Bob Akers, Jim Battan, Rick Charriere, Charles Ciecko, Lynn Wilson, Ron Klein, Heather Nelson-Kent, Sha Spady, Chris Miller

Mike Reid called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a discussion of Title 3: Streams and Floodplain Management Plan and proposed regional standards to protect these resources. Bob Akers expressed concern about the cut/fill balance standard as a possible "green light" to fill wetlands. That is, all you need to do is rearrange the landscape and it's okay to build in wetlands. Seth Tane stated that the cut/fill standard pertains to floodplain management only, but agreed that exceptions to resource protection are always troublesome.

Tane's primary concern was over the future Goal 5 standards likely to be even more restrictive than the WRPAC standards. This could cause serious Metro credibility problems in setting one set of standards and then following it up with another set that is inconsistent.

Rick Charriere outlined his concerns by stating there are no standards proposed for engineered water management systems (current primary approach), mapping is not accurate, and the enforcement of the proposed standards is not clearly addressed.

Charles Ciecko encouraged committee members to attend Title 3 hearings and call their Councilors to express their concerns. The committee decided a letter from the RPAGAC to Metro Council also would be appropriate. Mike Reid requested a memo to Metro Council on behalf of the committee be drafted that captures the committee's concerns about Title 3 (i.e. the proposed WRPAC standards represent a minimum for resource protection, shorten local government implementation to 1 year).

Jim Battan reported that he was invited and attended a recent meeting of the SW Neighborhood Association. His tenure as a committee member was questioned because he was not a long-time resident of the area. Battan was also told that Metro should be investing more funds in parks and greenspaces in their community. Jim Desmond noted that SW Portland has received more funds than some regional target areas. Desmond agreed to attend a future SW Neighborhood Assn. meeting to explain the level of acquisition activity.

Charles Ciecko introduced Heather Nelson-Kent as the new Manager of the Planning and Capital Development Division. The Director's requested budget for FY 98-99 was excepted by Mike Burton. The RPAGAC recommendations were included in the budget (see December 1997 summary minutes). The Metro finance committee will review the budget in March and will likely be reviewed, amended and approved by Metro Council in May.

Mike Reid said in light of the recent property donations (i.e. Whitaker Ponds, Beaver Creek) to Metro, they should be accounted for as agency assets. Reid brought this up with Alexis Dow for her consideration.

Ciecko noted that current and emerging issues for Metro Parks include the Sizemore initiative to abolish Metro, updating the Blue Lake Regional Park Master Plan, implementation of the Regional Framework Plan (natural area, parks and urban forest canopy inventory), setting Title 3 performance standards and the need for a volunteer coordinator and additional help in landbanking management.

Jim Desmond provided an update of open space acquisition activities including a recent 67-acre purchase on Mt. Talbert in north Clackamas County. This is an important step to hopefully acquire most of a mostly intact butte in a rapidly growing community. The property will be managed by North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District.

Lynn Wilson, grants program coordinator, reviewed the success of the Metro Habitat Restoration and Environmental Education Grants Program. A slide show featured many projects conducted throughout the region and Clark County. This year, Metro awarded 7 habitat restoration grants totaling \$64,340 and 14 environmental education grants totaling \$60,100 to various schools, cities, park agencies and environmental groups. The funded projects will engage thousands of people in exploring and improving their metropolitan greenspaces.

The grants are made possible by federal funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces department serves to conduct the grants program and since 1991 has funded 73 restoration projects and 88 education projects in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region. The program has generated an additional \$4 million in local match contributions.

Ron Klein reminded committee members that positions representing District #2 (Councilor Don Morissette) and District #6 (Councilor Lisa Naito) expire March 31, 1998. Nominations are needed for Metro Council confirmation by February 27, 1998.

The next meeting of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, April 7, 1998, Metro Regional Center, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.