

**Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
December 2, 1997 Summary Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center**

Present: Seth Tane, Ivy Frances, Julie Garver, John Griffiths, Mike Reid, Bob Akers, Charles Ciecko, Dan Kromer, Ron Klein, Karen Feher, Berit Stevenson, Al Benkendorf (consultant to master plan), David Oberin (Oregon State Marine Board)

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

Ron Klein provided an open spaces acquisition update noting that as of December 2, Metro has closed on 83 properties totaling 2,793 acres. This represents 46% of the acre goal with 27% of the funding. About 313 acres have been purchased inside the UGB and 2,470 acres outside the UGB. Approximately equal amounts of money (i.e. \$15 million) have been spent inside and outside the UGB.

Seth Tane and Mike Reid will review the Utilitree proposal and work with park staff to recommend a course of action. Utilitree is a program of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), funded by electric utilities throughout the country including Pacificorps. The primary objective is to secure CO₂ mitigation credits by planting trees to help offset CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel power plants.

Berit Stevenson (Metro Administrative Services) reviewed highlights of the draft Columbia River Gleason Boat Ramp/Broughton Beach Master Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide design and management guidelines for the redevelopment of the existing Gleason Boat Ramp on the Columbia River near NE 42nd and Marine Drive and the development of Broughton Beach as a Day Use Recreation Area.

Overall, the plan calls for improved boater access with better parking facilities, new ramp, new boat dock and debris barrier, moving the Multnomah County river patrol to the west end of the property and providing restroom facilities. Improved beach access includes additional parking, 2 picnic shelters and a volleyball court.

Based on comments from the previous RPAGAC, the plan is revised to state the parking area storm water system will be designed to maximize bio-filtration and minimize pollutants reaching the Columbia River. Native plants will be selected for landscaping. No formal lawn-turf is anticipated. A complete list of proposed edits and revisions were distributed to committee members.

The Metro Regional Facilities Committee on 12/1 recommended reducing day-use parking by 30% and only constructing one picnic shelter. Julie Garver noted that reducing the proposed parking capacity would likely "push" people back out on Marine Drive and not adequately address the safety issues. Parking is also related to the ability of visitors to fully use the site. The historic district in Vancouver WA regrets making a similar decision to reduce parking space.

Parking should be developed as planned, but perhaps it could be partitioned use allow flexible capacity. Making a portion of the lot permeable will reduce stormwater management. Garver also that it was unclear what \$20,000 bought for lighting the area. There should be a minimum lighting arrangement specified.

Ivy Frances pointed out there may be a bottleneck at the entrance on busy days (i.e. boaters in line to launch, picnickers, people leaving). Planners are aware of congestion potential, but with a long cue lane the bottleneck would only occur sporadically. Frances also expressed concern about reducing the parking capacity in that it may actually increase environmental degradation (e.g. erosion at informal access areas).

No citizens offered public testimony.

John Griffiths (Garver 2nd) moved to approve the draft master plan as presented by Metro staff with a strong recommendation to maximize parking capacity. Ivy Frances amended the motion to include that alternative parking surfaces be considered for 30% of the lot. The amendment was approved 4-3. The amended motion was approved 5-2.

Charles Ciecko reviewed the highlights of the requested budget for FY98-99. Ciecko outline the 5% and 10% cut packages that may be required depending on Metro Council revenue decisions (e.g. reduction of tipping fee, reduction of excise tax) and the need to compensate for revenue losses at the zoo due to property tax reductions. The proposed cuts include eliminating ½ of the 75¢ per hour increase for park seasonals and elimination of the volunteer coordinator position. An additional 5% cut would include eliminating ½ of the 75¢ per hour increase for park seasonals, elimination of raft trips, elimination of the 0.5 FTE park ranger position, delaying computer upgrades, reduce support to regional framework implementation by \$5,000 and defer capital maintenance projects.

The RPAGAC recommended that the modest increase in park ranger wages must remain in order to stay competitive in recruiting seasonal staff. The committee also recommended not to cut the volunteer coordinator position. The committee felt that this position is critical to increase the department's ability to steward park lands and build public support for the regional system. The committee suggested looking for alternatives to these items for budget cuts or defer the wage and volunteer coordinator cuts to the 10% level.

The update on the Regional Framework Plan was tabled. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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



METRO
Regional Parks and Greenspaces
600 NE GRAND AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97232-2736 (503) 797-1850