

**Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee**  
**October 7, 1997 Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Metro Regional Center**

Present: Seth Tane, Ivy Francis, Jim Battan, Rick Charriere, Jay Hamlin, Brian Scott, Mike Reid, Charles Ciecko, Ron Klein, Nancy Chase, Jennifer Budhabhatti, Jim Desmond, Dan Kromer

Mike Reid called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Charles Ciecko noted the Glendoveer Golf Course task force will convene sometime in early November to begin consideration of a proposal from the current contracted operator of the course. The proposal involves a \$1 million capital investment in the course in exchange for a 10-year extension on their contract. Ciecko thanked committee members Mike Reid, Bob Akers, John Griffiths and Rick Charriere for their willingness to serve on this task force.

Ciecko also said the Oxbow Master Plan was approved by the Metro Regional Facilities Committee (10/7) with some minor amendments- 1) the budget will be removed from the body of the plan and appended; 2) funding for the environmental education center will come from private grants and donations; 3) the budget reflects those expenditures that are new amenities and those that are part of the backlog of capital replacement needs. Metro staff will also seek a variance to county requirements for parking lots and restroom facilities. Metro would rather minimize the use of paved parking lots and use all-weather gravel or other permeable surface where possible. The master plan is expected to go before Metro Council on October 16.

On October 21, the Metro Regional Facilities Committee will hear and deliberate on the resolution to establish an agency standard process for considering requests for easements on Metro park property for non-park purposes.

Jim Battan shared recent Oregonian press regarding the Canemah Bluff acquisition and a citizen editorial by Kim Lathrop suggesting that the regional acquisitions are not a good deal for Portland and a "drain" on the taxpayer. Mike Reid said he has sent a letter to the editor in response to the Lathrop piece.

The 1000 Friends of Oregon is hosting a citizens land use conference ("Building Blocks for Livable Communities") on Saturday, November 8 at PSU Smith Center, 9AM to 6PM. There will be a session on securing greeninfrastructure and restoring natural resources. Call 497-1000 for more information.

Seth Tane said that LUBA remanded the Angel Brothers Quarry expansion request to Multnomah County to either accept the findings of the county hearings officer (i.e. grant partial expansion with restrictions) or start over with the permit process. This is good news for those opposing the expansion.

Jim Desmond, Open Spaces Division Manager, presented the open spaces quarterly report. As of 10/7 Metro has acquired 2,567 acres in 74 parcels. Of special note is the 39-acre Canemah Bluff property that was approved for a 136-home subdivision and a pending 40-acre acquisition in the Balch Creek watershed of Forest Park.

Charles Ciecko reviewed the budget department issues for FY98-99. The budget process is expected to continue to Metro Council approval in June 1998. There will be no net increase of FTE agency-wide. That is, if additional staff are approved in one department, then it would come with a corresponding decrease of staff in another department or division. Revenues are expected to be flat or slightly above current year. Tipping fees may be reduced which would reduce excise tax revenue.

Personnel expenses will increase because of merit increases and COLA increases. Park expenses will increase overall at the same level of service (e.g. Blue lake Park sewer bill will increase from \$4,500 to \$11,000). Land banking costs will go up simply because of the increase in acreage. Flat revenues and increasing expenses will make FY 98-99 seem like going backwards. The department has also been asked to prepare a 5% and 10% cut packages.

The new proposed elements for the FY98-99 budget were presented by the Division managers Jim Desmond, Dan Kromer and Nancy Chase. The elements include 1) extend the Associate Public Affairs position for the life of the open spaces acquisition effort, 2) hire an additional 0.5 FTE stabilization staff, 3) hire a limited duration forest ecologist to manage reforestation activities on new acquisitions, 4) hire a new 1.0 FTE Park Ranger to serve at large, 5) hire an additional 0.5 FTE temporary Park Ranger during peak season, 6) conduct a natural areas and park facility inventory and regional system plan, 7) hire an additional 0.5 FTE Associate Planner to focus on capital development projects, 8) hire a Volunteer Coordinator to recruit and facilitate citizen participation in park and open space stewardship activities.

Ivy Francis recommended that the department should look into increasing park naturalist or interpretive staff. Environmental education leads to a better informed public and one that would treat the parks better, thus reducing O&M costs. Seth Tane expressed a concern that adding 0.5 FTE to the stabilization effort was not enough considering Metro will soon be managing over 3,000 acres at nearly 100 locations.

Jim Battan moved (Tane 2nd) to support the new FY98-99 budget elements as presented by staff. Approved 7-0.

Charles Ciecko updated the committee on Regional Framework Plan matters. The Metro Policy Advisory Committee met the previous week. MPAC is more focused on Policy 3.5 that deals with parks, open space, natural areas, trails and recreation programs at the community and neighborhood level. MPAC wants park providers to look for opportunities for cooperation to accomplish objectives. MPAC is recommending that Metro develop and approve a functional plan for parks. MPAC does not want to specify the percentage of parks and open space in newly planned areas. Unbuildable lands should be included in the open space total inventory.

Ivy Francis said the RPAGAC should be strong advocates for parks. Francis recommended that the committee letter to Council should include a parks standard that states that planned areas shall include at least 20% of the land in parks and open space. Jim Battan moved (Charriere 2nd) to send the draft letter to Metro Council with the 20% parks standard included. Approved 7-0. Mike Reid encouraged committee members to call their Councilors, send letters and/or testify as individuals to express their views about parks policies during the Regional Framework Plan process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM. **The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 1997, 6PM at Metro Regional Center.**