

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
August 5, 1997 Summary Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Metro Regional Center

Present: Bob Akers, Seth Tane, Faun Hosey, Jim Battan, Jay Hamlin, John Griffiths, Brian Scott, Mike Reid, Michael Morrissey, Charles Ciecko, Ron Klein, Jennifer Budhabhatti, Nancy Chase, Jim Walsh, Jane Hart, Jim Lind, Scott Forrester, Marian Drake, Paul Box

Bob Akers called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Charles Ciecko indicated that the managing concession at Glendoveer Golf Course requested a 10-yr extension of their contract. The contractors would invest \$1 million over 4 years in capital improvements for a 10-yr commitment. Ciecko asked for 3 members of the advisory to volunteer on a community task force to review the proposal. Bob Akers and Mike Reid volunteered. It was suggested that Rick Charierre be asked to serve.

Jim Battan and John Griffiths were nominated candidates for vice chairman of the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee. Ron Klein said he would call other committee members and solicit their nomination. Ballots will be sent out in the next mailing and the successful candidate announced at the next meeting (September 9).

Charles Ciecko introduced the Oxbow Regional Park Master Plan presentation by explaining the need for the plan is simply that the park is "worn out" with its 30+ year infrastructure. Jim Walsh provided an overview of the planning process, plan goals and the primary plan components:

- Old growth habitat protected
- New park entry area (not in conflict with Camp Collins, no road to maintenance area, new office, restroom, orientation, ticket booth)
- Formalize camp sites near entrance
- Interpretive viewpoint at "hosner hole"; consolidate picnic areas along access road; restore vegetation
- Dismal swamp: restore wetland; centralize picnicking; move road out of wetland
- Environmental Education Center
- More efficient, safer transportation pattern with road turn-around for access to camping, boat ramp and group picnic areas

Public Testimony

Marion Drake: The estimated \$8.5 million estimated to implement the plan is too much-there are greater needs in our region. Recommended Tri-met or other shuttle service to park to provide better air quality; no evidence presented for the need for flush toilets (ie no documented public demand); money better spent on shuttle rather than roads in park; recommended postponing decision until the end of the year to allow for additional public comment or do not approve staff recommendation.

Paul Box: Served on the master plan committee. Opposes plan; wants to resign from the committee and his name removed from the plan document; \$8.5 million too much to spend on park "overkill"; agrees park needs fixing up; planned amenities will encourage greater use of the park and cause more damage to the resources; access road will fall in the river eventually; adding more group picnic areas will sacrifice and degrade the current pristine park experience; "Oxbow Park is too beautiful to upgrade"

Scott Forrester: Help reduce traffic by using alternative transportation like shuttles; costs about \$100,000 shuttle bus and operation; plan does not mention future land acquisition opportunities; [Ciecko said acquisitions are addressed in the Sandy River Target Area Refinement Plan; management parameters in federal wild and scenic management plan]; these other plans should be mentioned in master plan; p 125, Table 11 states the park currently runs at a 59.5% deficit with the master plan the park would be projected to operate at a 40.8% deficit; \$8.5 million is too much money to spend to continue to run the park at a large deficit; don't load the park up with "yurt people"; public hearing should be held at or near Oxbow.

Ciecko: the plan is a vision document; there's too much emphasis being placed on how much things cost; it's important to consider the needs and efficient uses of the park in the event funds become available; the intent is not to run out and spend \$8.5 million, but to identify and articulate the needs and desired facilities for Oxbow. There is \$1.25 million dollars available from bond measure funds restricted to water and other infrastructure needs and \$200,000 in the environmental education center trust fund.

Tane: Plan is merely a wish list; perhaps a carpool discount [Ciecko: park visitors currently average about 3.5 passengers per car; people are already grouped]

Hosey: Plan is a management tool; support ee center

Reid: Only 7 of the 300+ state parks operate at a profit; Tri-met runs at a 70% deficit

Battan: Oxbow park needs improvements; need to scale back the measures if this is intended as a short term implementation because it is unrealistic to expect to find \$8.5 million in the short-term; plan should better address the financing ; road improvement recommendations are good; operating costs are likely to increase with the upgraded facilities in a current climate of a growing capital replacement backlog.

Scott: Tyron Creek State Park can serve as a model; need the improvements soon to serve a growing urban population.

Griffiths: there does not seem to be a specific timeframe for the plan. [Ciecko- time and circumstances will determine the "shelf-life" of usefulness of the plan. The Blue Lake master plan needs updating after 12yrs. You should get about ten years out of a plan before it needs revisiting]. Need to consider alternative transportation to the park. [Ciecko- think family or small groups, that's who currently visits the park; there is currently no mass demand for public transportation to the park; people arriving with bikes, tents, coolers, and other gear are not thinking about taking the bus; perhaps there will be greater demand in the future]. \$8.5 million seems like a reasonable estimate considering the proposed amenities. Is the plan based a the park's carrying capacity? [Walsh-yes]. Gift in the nature center would bring in some revenue. You need to set up a reserve for capital renewal based on capital depreciation so that the agency managing the park does not get themselves in the same situation of having critical needs and no funding.

Akers: supports the plan as a vision document.

Griffiths moves to approve the plan with the addition for a provision to set up a capital replacement fund for future maintenance needs. Reid 2nd. Approved 6-1-1

Jennifer Budhabhatti presented the refinement of the Regional Framework Plan (RFP) policies related to parks and recreational services. Seth Tane served as the parks advisory committee representative to review and refine the parks policies in the RFP. A subcommittee of the Greenspaces Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) and the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) worked on the policies.

The City of Portland recommended that Metro conduct an inventory of community and neighborhood park facilities as well as natural areas. CLF suggested that the Greenspaces Master Plan should be updated. The City of Lake Oswego suggested doing a regional master plan of all park facilities and recreational services. The provision of having a park within ½-mile of every home was dropped. The policy recommendations of the working group were approved by GTAC to be forwarded to the metro Policy Advisory Committee for their consideration on August 27.

The RPAGAC thought the policies needed benchmarks and performance standards; the removal of the "walk to" clause was a disappointment. The committee also expressed concern over the lack of a functional plan in the works to implement the park policies when adopted. Akers encouraged individual comments should be made to Metro Council, but the committee should also be heard on the RFP. The committee will consider a draft letter from the committee to Metro Council regarding the RFP. Issues addressed in the letter will include the inventories needed, that all people should have access to parks (ie walkable) and that a plan is needed to implement the adopted park policies along with other aspects of the RFP. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. **Next RPAGAC meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, Metro Regional Center, Room 270**