

Metro Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Committee
March 18, 1997 Summary Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m. to 7:50 p.m., Metro Regional Center, Room 270

Present: Michael Reid, Rick Charriere, Seth Tane, Julie Garver, Ivy Frances, John Griffiths, Jim Battan, Brian Scott, Faun Hosey, Charles Ciecko, Pat Lee, Jane Hart, Ron Klein, Karla Simon (OHS), Bo Nevue (consultant), Lisa Naito

Vice-Chairman Michael Reid called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Klein distributed an update of open space acquisitions noting that total to date is about 2,000 acres.

All members (except Akers who was absent) agreed that the committee would meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month (2nd and 4th Thursdays as alternatives). Klein said he would contact Akers for consensus.

Seth Tane reported that WRPAC's final meeting working on the Title 3 Model Ordinance will be March 31. Goal 5 resources will be addressed at a future time. Tane expressed continued concern that the lack of performance standards seriously compromises the ability of Title 3 to actually result in the protection and improvement of water quality and flood plains. There is a scarcity of science worked into the Model Ordinance, but a background paper being prepared by Metro staff should provide some basis for the width of the buffers and setbacks. There is also a question related to the definition of Substantial Compliance and who will determine compliance. Rick Charriere noted that the Metro maps that delineate floodplains and buffer corridors will have some trouble in depicting the real world. In the meantime, it is estimated by Metro staff that floodways are urbanized currently at a rate of 400 acres per year.

Jane Hart and planning consultant Bo Nevue presented the features of the draft Howell Territorial Park Master Plan. The goals of the plan are to 1) Protect, preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources of Howell Territorial Park while maintaining its pastoral quality; 2) Provide recreational facilities and opportunities which are consistent with the character of Howell Territorial Park and comparable with its natural and cultural resources; 3) Provide educational opportunities which enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of Sauvie Island's natural and cultural history; and 4) Serve as an orientation center for Sauvie Island. The plan calls for improved wildlife habitat, preserving the pastoral setting of the park, improving parking and visitor entry, improved signage, a trail system, compliance with ADA standards, group picnic shelters, outdoor lighting, on-site ranger facilities, interpretive programs and exhibits.

Tane asked about the status of the septic system. Ciecko said an upgrade would involve a large county review and permit process. Alternative sanitary management systems will be considered at the time. Reid requested that the wapato area be expanded as part of the restoration work. Frances suggested restoration be better defined to include planting, native landscaping, use of swales for drainage, reduce lawn where possible and consider planting hedgerows. Garver suggested the park offers an opportunity to interpret the geology of the region.

Ivy noted the group picnic facilities were too close to the shrub wetland and that they should be sited away from sensitive wildlife areas. Nevue said the shelters are intended for environmental education opportunities as well. Griffiths commented that perhaps because there was not enough land for all the intended purposes and is in a way forcing inappropriate siting of facilities like the group picnic shelters. Perhaps the acquisition of the NW parcel or the piece near the barn would allow for other facility siting considerations. Battan asked whether the \$62,000 in anticipated revenue was too ambitious. Ciecko noted that he was comfortable with the financial projections. The revenue, however, will not cover the cost of park operations.

Griffiths moved (Hosey 2nd) to approve the draft Howell Territorial Park master Plan with the recommendation that Metro reconsider the location of group picnic facilities if additional land is acquired. Motion passed 9-0.

Ciecko presented an update to the FY97-98 budget process by noting that the long range funding issue facing the parks department will be heard by Council and no cuts to the submitted budget are anticipated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Next RPAGAC meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 1997, Metro Regional Center, Room 270