

Metro

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Metro

Minutes

Thursday, October 19, 2017

5:00 PM

Forest Grove Community Auditorium
1915 Main Street, Forest Grove, OR

Council meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Council President Tom Hughes called the Metro Council meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Forest Grove Mayor Pete Truax welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their support.

Present: 5 - Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Carlotta Collette, Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Kathryn Harrington, and Councilor Bob Stacey

Excused: 2 - Councilor Sam Chase, and Councilor Craig Dirksen

2. Citizen Communication

Dana Carstensen, City of Hillsboro: Mr. Carstensen spoke to the importance of increased transportation options in the region, particularly related to public transit. He proposed a plan to add new electric busses to TriMet's fleet in order to provide cost savings, support the region's sustainability goals, and provide better services to the public.

4. Consent Agenda**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilor Craddick, seconded by Councilor Harrington, to adopt items on the consent agenda. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council President Hughes, Councilor Collette, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Harrington, and Councilor Stacey

Excused: 2 - Councilor Chase, and Councilor Dirksen

4. Parks and Nature West Side Parks Update

Council President Hughes called on Ms. Lisa Goorjian and Ms. Karen Vitkay, Metro staff, and Mr. Juan Carlos González, Centro Cultural, for a brief presentation on the resolution. Ms. Goorjian, Parks Planning and Operations Program Director for Metro's Parks and Nature department, noted that the meeting focused on an important milestone: the adoption of a plan for the future of Chehalem Ridge

Nature Park, a key part of Metro's growing parks system. She explained that at more than 1,200 acres, Chehalem Ridge was a significant part of Metro's public footprint in Washington County. Ms. Goorjian explained that thanks to investments made by voters across the Portland metropolitan region, Metro was opening a total of five sites in the county. She stated that each played an important role in Metro's mission to protect clean water, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and connect people with nature close to home. Ms. Goorjian provided an overview of new park destinations in Washington County, including Orenco Woods Nature Park, the new Farmington Paddle Launch, Killin Wetlands, and East Council Creek Natural Area. She noted that it was an honor to be in the City of Forest Grove to consider the master plan for Chehalem Ridge Nature Park and thanked Metro's many partners and community members who helped develop the project.

5. Resolutions

5.1 Resolution No. 17-4823, For the Purpose of Approving the Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Access Master Plan

Ms. Goorjian then introduced Ms. Karen Vitkay to provide an overview of the Chehalem Ridge master plan. Ms. Vitkay explained that Chehalem Ridge was a forested upland just south of the Cities of Forest Grove and Cornelius. She shared a brief history of the site and noted that it was identified in the 1992 Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan as a site well-suited to protect large upland areas for the benefit of wildlife and water quality as well as public access to nature. Ms. Vitkay explained that while the planning process began in 2016, staff had been studying the site and conducting restoration work there since 2010. She shared an overview of conservation efforts at the site,

including tree thinning, roadway decommissioning, and the planting of native trees and shrubs. Ms. Vitkay highlighted that the conservation strategy included continuing to protect streams that fed into the Tualatin River, the source of drinking water for 360,000 people.

Ms. Vitkay recalled the extensive public engagement process that was used during development of the plan, including the work of a Stakeholder Advisory Committee. She noted that staff provided a number of ways for people to contribute to the future of Chehalem Ridge and received over 6,000 points of input from Metro's partners and community members. Ms. Vitkay shared an overview of the feedback received, including that people wanted to experience a variety of activities at the nature park such as walking, hiking, off-road cycling, and horseback riding. Ms. Vitkay also shared questions and concerns received during the public comment period and reviewed how they were addressed.

Ms. Vitkay announced that through Metro's Partners in Nature grant program, staff were able to make a concerted effort to connect with Latino community members in Washington County. She noted that their input was incorporated into the final draft. She then introduced Mr. Juan Carlos González, Development Director for Centro Cultural, to speak about the partnership. Mr. González highlighted how the Partners in Nature program allowed communities of color to authentically engage with the planning process. He emphasized the importance of making nature accessible across different communities and using a culturally-specific lens for outreach and development. He

shared continuing challenges, but explained that it was important to continue working to ensure that Metro represented everyone. He highlighted the importance of advancing leadership opportunities, capacity, and empowerment for volunteers and staff and thanked Metro for its commitment to furthering these causes.

Ms. Vitkay then provided an overview of the Chehalem Ridge master plan including the primary trailhead, a welcome plaza, bicycle parking, multi-use shelters, and a nature play area. She noted that the plan provided plenty of unique visitor opportunities while also protecting significant areas of habitat as guided by the conservation strategy. Ms. Vitkay shared the phasing plan for Chehalem Ridge, noting that if approved, the site would likely formally open to the public in early 2020. Ms. Vitkay thanked the Council for their support throughout the planning effort and encouraged them to pass the resolution.

Council Discussion

Councilors expressed their support for the plan. Council Harrington discussed the long history of the site and expressed excitement about the opening of the nature park. She noted the restored park would benefit not only the public, but also the valuable clean water, fish, and wildlife habitat inside. She thanked Metro's project partners and the public for their participation developing the important plan. Councilor Collette noted that she felt the plan included an incredible balance of restoring areas for the public while also being mindful of protecting water sources and habitats. Councilor Stacey expressed excitement about making natural resources accessible to everyone in the community

and thanked Centro Cultural for their valuable input throughout the process.

A motion was made by Councilor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Stacey, that this item be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Council President Hughes, Councilor Collette, Councilor Craddick, Councilor Harrington, and Councilor Stacey

Excused: 2 - Councilor Chase, and Councilor Dirksen

5.1.1 Public Testimony on Resolution No. 17-4823

Tom Gamble, City of Forest Grove: Mr. Gamble, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Forest Grove, expressed support for the Chehalem Ridge master plan. He informed the Council that the plan was developed as part of a very thorough and well-thought-out public process. He noted that having the ability to participate was incredibly valuable and spoke to the vision of the project. He stated that Forest Grove staff looked forward to the opening of the park and the resources it would provide to the public.

Matthew Weintraub, City of Cannon Beach: Mr. Weintraub of the Northwest Trail Alliance expressed his organization's support for the plan. He explained that the plan was visionary and provided many benefits for the community, including multi-use trails, numerous opportunities for collaboration, and access for underprivileged communities.

John Charles, City of Portland: Mr. Charles of the Cascade Policy Institute expressed concerns about the Chehalem Ridge master plan. He noted the limited miles of trails that would be available and the fact that dogs would not be allowed on the site. He explained that he felt the plan did not fit the public's preferences or needs.

Lindsey Garcia, City of Cornelius: Ms. Garcia, Centro Cultural Program Manager, testified in support of the resolution and

spoke to the importance of providing learning experiences in nature for children. She noted that seeing children interact with the Chehalem Ridge Natural Area was inspiring, as it sparked their curiosity about their surroundings. She also expressed excitement for other opportunities included in the plan, such as designated family areas.

Michael Kinkade, City of Forest Grove: Mr. Kinkade, Forest Grove Fire and Rescue Fire Chief, informed the Council that he worked closely with staff members to review the safety plan for the park that included emergency equipment access, water supplies, forestry needs, and more. He noted that Metro staff listened carefully to Fire and Rescue's concerns and were responsive and professional throughout the process.

Maria Rubio, City of Cornelius: Ms. Rubio, Centro Cultural Executive Director, testified in support of the resolution and spoke to Centro Cultural's participation in the process. She explained that Centro Cultural served many residents in Washington County, including people of color and low-income individuals, and it was important for them to have opportunities to interact with nature. She noted that many undocumented residents worried about going to public places and stressed that it was important that they were able to feel safe while enjoying nature. She thanked the Metro Council and encouraged them to approve the plan.

Alberto Rodriguez, City of Cornelius: Mr. Rodriguez of Centro Cultural stated that he enjoyed being able to participate in the Chehalem Ridge planning process. He noted that he was able to bring community into nature by tabling events, providing guided tours, and helping others experience the opportunities the park provided. He spoke to the importance of the site and encouraged the Council to adopt the resolution.

6. Chief Operating Officer Communication

Deputy Chief Operating Officer Scott Cruickshank invited those present to a “Leading with a Racial Equity Approach for Structural Transformation” workshop at the Immigratn & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) on October 31. He congratulated Ms. Heidi Rahn, Metro staff, for being honored by the Daily Journal of Commerce as one of its 2017 Women of Vision. He also noted that the first crane had been planted on the Oregon Convention Center Hyatt Regency site and invited people to attend the salmon homecoming at Oxbow Regional Park.

7. Councilor Communication

Councilors provided updates on the following meetings or events: the Community Placemaking awards, the Regional Waste Plan workshops, the Southwest Corridor Equitable Housing forum, the opening of Pintail Pond at Jackson Bottom Wetlands, new openings at Bull Mountain Park, the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), and Metro’s 20 years of air quality attainment status.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Council President Hughes adjourned the Metro Council meeting at 6:37 p.m. The Metro Council will convene the next regular council meeting on October 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Metro Regional Center in the council chamber.

Respectfully submitted,



Nellie Papsdorf, Legislative and Engagement Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2017

ITEM	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOC DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
5.1	PowerPoint	10/19/17	Metro Parks and Nature West Side Update	101917c-01