

**MINUTES**  
**Troutdale City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**Troutdale City Hall – Council Chambers**  
**104 SE Kibling Avenue**  
**Troutdale, OR 97060-2099**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL, AGENDA UPDATE**

Mayor Thalhofers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Thalhofers, Councilor Gorsek, Councilor Thomas, Councilor Canfield, Councilor Kyle, Councilor Daoust, and Councilor Ripma (9:07pm).

**ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF:** John Anderson, City Administrator; Travis Hultin, Chief Engineer; Rich Faith, Community Development Director; Marnie Allen, City Attorney; Kathy Leader, Finance Director; Debbie Stickney, City Recorder.

**GUESTS:** See Attached.

Mayor Thalhofers asked is there an agenda update?

John Anderson, City Administrator replied there are no updates this evening.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2.1 ACCEPT MINUTES:** February 8, 2005 Work Session and March 8, 2005 Regular meeting.
- 2.2 RESOLUTION:** A Resolution recognizing the completion of the public improvements associated with the Harlow Courtyard development and accepting them into the City's Fixed Asset System.
- 2.3 RESOLUTION:** A Resolution accepting a perpetual exclusive easement from George and Isabelle Zifcak for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and/or modification of components of the public storm water system.
- 2.4 RESOLUTION:** A Resolution providing for budget transfers and making appropriation changes for Fiscal Year 2004-05.
- 2.5 MOTION:** A motion to adopt the 2005-06 Council Goals.

**MOTION:** Councilor Daoust moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Kyle. Motion Passed Unanimously.

**3. PROCLAMATION:** Academic All Stars.

Mayor Thalhofer read the proclamation.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Please restrict comments to non-agenda items at this time.

None.

**5. DISCUSSION/MOTION:** A discussion regarding the consideration of formally supporting a NASCAR track in Troutdale.

Neil Handy stated Terry Smoke and I are Co-Chairs of the Cascade Speedway and Sports Plex Committee (handout provided, copy is contained in the packet). We are here to gather support, by virtue of a letter from the City supporting our project. We will go to Gresham's meeting following this to ask them for their support also. We have given all kinds of testimony as to the positive economic benefits of this project. We received a letter from the Sports Car Club of America supporting our project. When we started this project we tried to explain the best that we could that it is not just NASCAR coming to town, it is all kinds of other types of racing. We have received a huge amount of support from people calling us. We are collecting signatures and we are receiving corporate letters. Tonight I would like to see Troutdale take the lead in supporting this project due to the fact that the property is going to be, from what I understand, in the jurisdiction of Troutdale.

Terry Smoke stated it is important to remember that racing is a big part of this but this facility could also be used for concerts, walkathons and jogathons. ISC is very community involved and they are going to want to put a lot back into this and help us out.

Neil Handy stated I want to read to you some of the feedback we received, through the excellent work of one of our committee members, from the Fontana track. Their survey showed that hotels and motels within 25 to 30 miles are booked solid with NASCAR fans. They can get as many as 7,200 people camping in RV's for the entire weekend event. NASCAR is different than most other sports and the fans will come from all over the Country to watch NASCAR races. Noise study; there was no noise issue at Fontana. It was reported that the passing freight trains are more of an issue than a race weekend. Fly-ins to the track will have a positive impact on the airport, both Troutdale and Portland. Those were just some of the points.

Terry Smoke stated with the trouble we are having funding fire services I believe that by having this track located here, there is a good chance that NASCAR will work with us to help build a fire district for the area because they have to have some of the most elaborate fire equipment and they are not going to ask the taxpayers to buy it for them, they are going to take care of that part of it. We truly believe that this is going to help our local economy, our schools, fire, and police. We are asking you to help by just getting behind us so we can move forward with this and get some more support. We are getting close to the eleventh hour and a decision is going to be made soon and I think we need to be ready for it. We are not building this as a way to push this off onto the taxpayers because we are taxpayers ourselves; we are business owners and we know that we can't afford more. We do feel that we have to look to some alternatives to start bringing some money into this state. Tourism is

huge here, its first or second in the State of Oregon, and we need to build on that. I really believe that this is our chance to move forward and it is Troutdale's chance to be the leader.

Councilor Gorsek asked what kind of money are they going to need? Are they saying what they are going to need from government to be able to operate?

Neil Handy replied the figure that was thrown out was about \$150 million.

Councilor Gorsek asked has anybody stepped forward with some ideas about that?

Terry Smoke replied yes. Multnomah County, Rob Fussell, has been working with us trying to look deeper into the funding issues. Ron Fox with the State of Oregon Economic Development has joined in and said that they want to hear from everybody that they are ready to do this and move forward and they want to hear from ISC that Oregon is their choice and then they will start figuring out how to put the funding together. On the other hand ISC is waiting to hear also, so we just need to bring everybody together. I believe the funding is out there we just have to find it.

Councilor Gorsek asked would the group be expecting money to come from the City of Troutdale?

Neil Handy replied I am not sure. There wasn't really a discussion about money from Troutdale. I would assume you're talking about give backs for development fees and costs. We didn't get into that discussion.

Terry Smoke stated we are not asking Troutdale to say you are going to help fund this track because we realize that Troutdale doesn't have the money to put into it. All we are asking for from you is to dig deeper into this and to move forward and support this as a viable option for that property.

Councilor Gorsek asked when you look at the Reynolds property, just west of that there is a lot of housing in Fairview, has that been considered in terms of impacts?

Terry Smoke stated by moving forward we are only pushing this to the next level. They will have to do noise studies before they go any further. But when ISC looked at the property they didn't foresee that as being an issue.

Neil Handy stated NASCAR is a different animal than open wheel wide track because it is all in a bowl so the noise is kept in that bowl.

Councilor Gorsek stated I have a letter from a Troutdale citizen, Joyce Stoeckel, who could not attend the meeting but wanted to submit some comments (copy of the letter is included in the packet). Her letter reads, "Some possible reasons for not being a NASCAR supporter: Out of town crowds could actually displace potential visitors and shoppers from coming to the business district because it is a race weekend; traffic congestion; Noise and quality of life. Sound barriers are not proven to help; Development like death and taxes is here to stay. I just happen to feel for a city such as Troutdale NASCAR is not a good fit. The very least is

that we owe it to ourselves to gather more information on this matter. In closing for more thought provoking information on the subject refer to the Oregonian March 2<sup>nd</sup> In My Opinion Column by Victor Mathieson.”

Councilor Gorsek asked do you have a response to Joyce’s comments?

Neil Handy stated it boils down to a philosophy that I have. I was born and raised in Troutdale and I thought it was a great town then, but it is not that town now. It is going to change. There may be other projects, other types of facilities or endeavors that may not have been thought of yet for that site but we know that NASCAR is an up and coming sport that is growing so it will be here for a long time. We know that our unemployment rate is the highest on the West Coast. We are a tourist state and I can’t emphasize this point enough. This type of facility will really open up the rest of the state to tourism. So many people travel across the Country to come to these races.

Councilor Gorsek stated there has been several articles regarding the lead exhaust, what do you have to say about that?

Neil Handy replied I did some research on that and NASCAR is now working on lead free engines. From the sounds of these articles it will happen somewhere around 2009, which would be about the time the track would open.

Terry Smoke stated I would like to compare one NASCAR race against the pollution from train engines. I believe that the studies have shown that train engines put out more toxic fumes and smoke. Or lets compare it to the truck stop and all of the semis that sit there all night long without turning their engines off.

Mayor Thalhofer asked how many races do you expect that there would be in Troutdale per year?

Terry Smoke replied two NASCAR races are what I believe we are looking at. The cars that race in the other leagues don’t have the noise level that the NASCAR cars have. There would be antique car shows and cruise-ins. We are hoping that the facility would be busy throughout the year. I spoke with a Troutdale Police Officer and he said that it would provide them with a place to practice maneuvers.

Councilor Canfield asked besides the race track and the things that would be generated from that, what other types of secondary businesses would possibly spring up?

Neil Handy replied at the Charlotte facility not too far from the race track there are facilities for the teams to build motors and test cars. I am thinking into the future and I would envision a northwest circuit and if that is the case I think there will be cars that will be out here on the circuit which will mean they will need garages and engine building facilities. Not related to racing, Kansas City and Vegas have all kinds of industrial sites like what is along Airport Way.

Terry Smoke stated I believe in Charlotte they built a mall just down the way shaped like a race track, while the husbands are watching the race it gives the wives a place to go shopping.

Councilor Kyle asked do you have an idea of what the total race time would be, from the time they show up to practice until they race and then leave?

Neil Handy stated they would probably start arriving on Monday, unload on Tuesday. Teams would come in Wednesday and start testing and the race is on the weekend.

Councilor Kyle asked you mentioned that the people that follow these races come and camp, is that on the NASCAR site?

Neil Handy replied at Charlotte they have infield camping and I am sure they would have a facility out here for that.

Councilor Kyle stated my concern is financing. If the Tribe gets involved does that mean that it becomes a tax exempt status?

Terry Smoke replied no. Our only thought of bringing the Tribe in would be for the bonding of the property, not to purchase the property.

Councilor Kyle stated you mentioned \$150,000 million public financing. How much is ISC planning on bringing?

Neil Handy replied they said they would bring somewhere between \$50 and \$70.

Councilor Kyle asked once the track is established we really couldn't guarantee that there would not be drag racing there could we?

Terry Smoke replied the track will be oval and it would not accommodate drag racing.

Councilor Kyle stated there is a watchdog group around that is keeping an eye on this and doing research. (Councilor Kyle provided a handout of the emails that she has received; copies are included in the packet.) Their concern seems to be the noise. Are there any studies on oval shaped tracks that would let us know what the noise factor is?

Neil Handy replied they have done studies in the past. Even if we move into the next phase, before they would break ground on this project they would do a noise study to verify that it doesn't go beyond the levels that are allowed.

Councilor Kyle stated I am hearing concerns from the public regarding the massive amount of people, which isn't really a negative for me. Like in the letter that Councilor Gorsek read, she is thinking that it is going to displace her ability to shop in our neighborhood during the race weekends. The key concern is really the noise. I received a call from someone who lives on Blue Lake and I guess there is a strong group forming because they are concerned about the noise.

Terry Smoke stated since we have started this I have only fielded one call against it and during that same time I have collected close to 3,000 signatures of people who support this.

Councilor Kyle stated I know there is the fear of the unknown. I have talked to a couple of the downtown business people who felt that NASCAR might not be what they would really like to have here but it is better than the Intermodal Rail Yard.

Councilor Daoust stated I appreciate people that take the initiative to drive things like this. I would like to know what the latest information is regarding Troutdale's competitiveness with this site?

Neil Handy replied there is a site E. of Lacey and a site around Woodburn.

Terry Smoke stated we think we are one of four sites.

Councilor Daoust asked so from what you have heard we are still in the running?

Terry Smoke replied yes.

Councilor Daoust asked have we heard anything from Camas or Vancouver residents concerning the noise, because you know how noise can travel over water?

Terry Smoke replied I have about 400 signatures from people from Camas, Washougal and Vancouver and from what we have heard they are supporting it.

Councilor Daoust stated I still question the Port of Portland. Does ISC claim that they need all of the acreage? The reason I am asking that is that I wonder about the Port of Portland's support of the race track but still in the end wanting a portion of the site for some other industrial use. In other words, if the site needs to be divided, is that going to push ISC away?

Terry Smoke replied yes. I believe they will have to have every bit of that site. They figure about 100 acres for the track and the rest for a parking lot. The Port hasn't said anything to us about any portion that they would want to keep. As far as we understand they are willing to back off of the whole property.

Councilor Daoust stated Councilor Gorsek brought up the air pollution question. One of the people that I work with is an air pollution expert in the region and I asked him what his concerns were about a NASCAR race track and he replied that he didn't have a concern. He has done scientific studies and calculations of air pollution from multiple different kinds of sources.

Terry Smoke asked have you ever mentioned or discussed train pollution?

Councilor Daoust replied yes, there is a huge concern there.

Mayor Thalsofer asked the Oregon Sports Authority is supportive of a NASCAR track in Oregon aren't they?

Terry Smoke replied yes they support a track somewhere in the State of Oregon. They want to stay neutral until an Oregon site is decided.

Mayor Thalsofer asked what about the Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA)?

Terry Smoke replied POVA is right behind them and said they will follow the lead of the Oregon Sports Authority.

Mayor Thalsofer asked is there anyone here that would like to speak to us on this issue?

Pat Smith stated there is a letter from the Port of Portland in the packet dated September 2004. They state that they have entered into an agreement with Alcoa but it won't be finished for two years. I wasn't really a proponent for NASCAR but the alternative is a lot worse. Have any of you ever been down and watched the Port of Portland's train yard in North Portland? It is a nightmare. It runs 24 hours a day 7 days a week. When they move out here they want to expand, which they have the room to do. If that is the case we will have nothing but constant 18-wheelers coming and going 24 hours a day. Now that is a lot of noise. If the Port owns the property, they are a government entity and that means we will not receive any tax money. We are sitting here now with 7 or 8 empty buildings in downtown Troutdale. At Thriftway practically all of those buildings are empty except a few. I don't feel that Troutdale is diversified enough to attract tourists, we need a lot more variety. I feel that NASCAR will only be running a few weeks during the year. It will bring diversity and allow concerts, and a place where we can hold meetings, which is what we have wanted. I feel that it would actually help Troutdale but we can not sit around and talk about it for weeks because I feel like we are between a rock and a hard place and you are going to have to do something fairly quick.

Lorne Mitchell stated I am not a NASCAR fan but that does not persuade me from being in favor of it. I learned a lot more tonight from the speakers. I do believe that it would be economically beneficial. I could not see them trying to build a speedway of this type with the amount of money involved and just hold two races a year. They want to recoup their money. If it has wheels someone is going to race it. I would like to see us get in on the first step and get our two cents in and say, yes we want it. I realize developers, architects, and consultants will be hired, talked to, spoken about and will look at designs. The Council will have their ideas; Minnis will have her ideas. Everybody will have a thought and an idea of how it would be done. I would like to ask that before everything is put into concrete that you talk to the other facilities and find out what their concerns are and what they would have done differently. We have the best area for access that I can see; we have I-84 that goes right by the site. We have an airport. I am for it and I hope you are too.

Bob Paine, Commissioner Roberts' Office stated I wanted to let you know that Commissioner Roberts supports NASCAR primarily because he does not want the Intermodal Rail Facility here and he thinks that NASCAR would bring economic development to this area that we

need. East County has a potential of over shadowing some other areas with the NASCAR. The Commissioner is behind this 110% and we will help out in any way we can.

Allan Roberts stated I have lived in Troutdale for about 25 years. We live above Edgefield and we would be right in the noise area without a doubt. I don't think you could build a race track that would keep the noise in unless you covered it. The way the Columbia River Gorge is right there, that noise won't just go straight up it will extend out and I believe that it will be heard in Gresham and south of Gresham. I didn't realize that this was an either or situation. I am getting the impression that it is either a train station or a NASCAR track. I am kind of wondering what the hurry is. It has been sitting there for fifty years as Reynolds Aluminum Plant and it has been unoccupied for five or six years. Do we have to just take the first two options that we have. If the train station is going to come if NASCAR doesn't, then I guess my preference would be the NASCAR track. When I hear people say that there is only going to be two races it wouldn't be economically feasible for them to only have two races a year in order to pay for a \$250 million facility. I keep coming back to one thought when I think about opposing this particular issue, train station or track, and that is this is the Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge. I think about how pristine the Gorge is and how many people fight to keep it that way. It just seems like the Forefathers of Troutdale would probably not feel very good about having a NASCAR track or a train station at the Gateway to the Gorge. So I guess I would register my opposition to both and I guess the least of the two evils would be the race track.

Mayor Thalhoffer closed the public hearing at 8:06pm.

Councilor Gorsek stated Mr. Roberts brings up some interesting points and it comes back to some of the things that Councilor Kyle was mentioning. The noise issue is something that worries people and that certainly makes sense especially if you live up from when the venue would be. One of the things that I was very concerned about in terms of the question of lead fuels, Councilor Daoust allayed that for me. We already have a source of lead at the airport and the diesel trucks. My concern was exacerbating that with other sources of pollution. On the other hand, as Pat Smith points out, we have a number of vacant buildings around the city and we need to do something that will help revitalize this area. Unfortunately it seems as if it is either the Port or NASCAR. We know how people feel about trains. I would be in favor of supporting NASCAR and moving forward for the economic reasons that were discussed and pay special attention to the questions of noise. We should also leverage our own desires in terms of better transportation options and it might even be possible to look into the idea of a light rail line out of Gateway that could run along I-84 to Troutdale.

Councilor Thomas stated one of the valid questions that came up was why when this property has been sitting here for fifty years is it so important to act now. Part of the challenge is now it is owned by someone else and they have a desire to improve that. We need economic development out here. To put it into an either or case, I am not sure that is fair. However, we need to do what it takes to bring good economic development into Troutdale. Having 150,000 people here during a race week, probably per day won't be that bad. I think those things can be worked out. There was an excellent report put together that talks about how traffic can be handled. I think there are a lot of things we can do creatively to handle those



potential situations. I think it is absolutely imperative that we at least pursue this issue and see what happens.

Mayor Thalhoffer stated I speak in favor of the NASCAR facility. There are quite a few reasons why I do so. There is no doubt about the fact that we need some economic stimulus in this area. A NASCAR facility would bring about that economic stimulus. There would be a lot of people here during the two major race weekends per year and there would be other smaller races. There would be other activities that benefit the community in other ways which is what intrigues me. Non-profit groups, the Boy Scouts for example, could have some of their functions in this facility. We could have concerts or a County fairground. It lends itself to another vision that we have in East County called the Columbia-Cascade River District Vision which includes mixed-use developments which could include some industrial, science and technology, recreation, tourism and sporting events. I think we can incorporate part of that vision into the NASCAR track. Many of us have spent a lot of time opposing the Intermodal Rail Facility because it would bring traffic congestion, pollution and noise. From the Port's presentations there would be anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000 trucks 24/7 coming in and out of the Alcoa site. There would be ultimately 12 trains, some of which would be sitting there idling waiting to unload. There would be a huge crane in the middle of two tracks that would be used to load and unload containers. The Port of Portland has sponsored legislation to create a supersiting situation in the State of Oregon. The City of Fairview has land that is zoned agricultural and is part of the acreage that the Port needs for the Intermodal Rail Facility so the Port couldn't build the facility using the Fairview acreage if it remains zoned as agricultural. The Port is trying to pass legislation that would allow them to trump local zoning. That is how bad the Port wants this site to be an Intermodal Rail Facility, so I think it is pretty much either or. The fact that the Port is pushing for supersiting authority to trump Fairview's zoning and therefore be able to build the Intermodal Rail Facility convinces me that the Port has one thing in mind and that is the Intermodal Rail Facility but I think they probably would defer to a NASCAR track if every governmental agency in Oregon supported NASCAR. Tourism is one of the things that we have been pushing for in the City of Troutdale and what better kind of tourism activity is there than a NASCAR event that brings all of these people into the area to experience the Pacific Northwest. I support the idea of a NASCAR track.

Councilor Canfield stated I support the idea of getting NASCAR to the Reynolds site. I know there is a lot of issues that have to be dealt with, the noise question is a big one. I think there is a lot of fear of the unknown and that is one of the reasons that I think that the City Council should support this effort so we can find out what the facts are. There are financial issues; how is it going to be financed? The environment is another concern. There are all sorts of things that we should look at but I think those are all obstacles that we can overcome. We are looking at this because of the economical benefits. There are several people that are opposed to this for whatever reason. I have listened to several people tell me they fear the noise that it might generate. I have never been to a NASCAR race but I grew up across the freeway from Autzen Stadium so I know a little bit about the noise that comes from loud events. As far as the crowds, it is part of the event; it is what makes a sporting event exciting. There are some issues that need to be looked at but I think it is very important to support this now so we can go ahead and find out what the obstacles are and figure out how to overcome them if we can.

Councilor Kyle stated I am going to be the dissenter here because I have had a lot of contact with people that are concerned about the noise factor. I am hopeful that there is something else for us besides the Intermodal Rail Yard or NASCAR. If there is some information regarding noise in a bowl shaped track I would like to see that and research that. I would have preferred to have ISC bring us some information. You have done a great job digging up what you can but they have brought us nothing and I am a person who likes to look at a lot of information before I feel good about it.

Councilor Daoust stated I appreciate Councilor Kyle's opinion. I have heard from quite a few constituents also that support it so it is kind of hard to ignore the high level of support that I have been hearing. I think it is critical right now that we take a stand one way or the other. Troutdale City Council needs to make a stand on this and I think it is appropriate that they are asking us for that. I am supporting the NASCAR facility in Troutdale. There are some benefits that we would receive in the area of transportation. I think with the energy behind ISC and possibly the Port of Portland backing them we could see some transportation improvements in the area that would blow us away. I think it is exactly what we would need transportation wise to get rid of that mess we have down on Frontage Road. There are potential benefits which are all yet to be discussed and there are issues that need to be discussed. Nobody up here likes noise anymore than anybody else does but if you really look at comparing the benefits of this to the issues, in my opinion the benefits far outweigh the issues. I am in support of this.

**MOTION: Councilor Daoust moved that the Troutdale City Council formally support a NASCAR Facility in Troutdale. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.**

**VOTE: Councilor Gorsek – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Thalhoffer – Yes; Councilor Canfield – Yes; Councilor Kyle – No; Councilor Daoust – Yes.**

**Motion Passed 5 – 1.**

Mayor Thalhoffer stated I will prepare a letter of support for you.

**6. PRESENTATION: A presentation by People for Parks.**

Kathy Minden stated I have been a volunteer children's advocate in East County for a number of years. People for Parks are working on getting dedicated staff on board to help with coordinating volunteer workers and to administer grants. We have developed a very comprehensive work plan. I have met with the cities and the various partners in developing the plan. We have just completed Phase I of Vance Park and we are having the dedication April 29<sup>th</sup>. We have started to take that park back as a community effort. This will be the sixth year for the community garden there and once we began to people the park with legitimate activities we didn't have to look for hypodermic needles anymore. We want to work collaboratively with all four E. County Cities as a free-standing foundation, recognizing that each of the Cities Parks and Recreation Departments would maintain their own identity.

Councilor Gorsek stated it sounds like a very good program. We need to maintain what we have and enhance what we have for parks and recreation.

Councilor Thomas stated as you know we have a really good recreation program and it has been a challenge to keep it going. How would you see your group being able to help and assist us in additional staffing to enhance our recreation program?

Kathy Minden replied by having dedicated positions, an administrator and assistant. There is so much opportunity in East County it is going to take some time just in the development of the opportunities. If people who feel very strongly about parks and recreation want to leave a legacy they probably wouldn't give to the government but they will give to a foundation or an entity that will directly return that to the community and they will get a tax write-off. There are a variety of opportunities that a foundation can do that governments can not. There are larger federal grants available by having a larger collaborative effort which can bring more of those dollars to East County.

Councilor Thomas stated so you would have the ability to bring volunteers in to help with various things over and above what the staff can do to help out with various programs. I like what you have done with Vance Park.

Mayor Thalhoffer stated Troutdale values parks and recreation probably more than any city that I am aware of in a vast area. We are doing a pretty fair job because of our priorities in the City of Troutdale. I think the People for Parks probably have their hands full right in Gresham. How can People for Parks help the City of Troutdale when we are not flush for money for parks and recreation but we are maintaining?

Kathy Minden replied we can further enhance it for your community. For the other communities throughout the state it would educate them on how important it is and it would show how it can be done.

Councilor Canfield stated I want to thank you and the folks that helped you with Vance Park.

Councilor Kyle stated thank you for your effort. I think it is very worthwhile. How many volunteers do you have?

Kathy Minden replied we have over 100.

Councilor Kyle asked what is the age group of your volunteers?

Kathy Minder replied we have all ages.

Councilor Kyle stated we just sat through our budget sessions last week and heard from our recreation coordinator that there is a bigger need than we are able to fill. I want to thank you for your effort.

Bruce Stannard, Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) member stated I have been working with Kathy's group. She made this same presentation to the PAC and I encouraged her to come and make this presentation to you. I think we would benefit with the support staff that they are trying to get on board with the grant money. They could be a lobbyist for East County

parks and recreation groups. If we put a parks levy on the ballot they would be able to help lobby for that and we would benefit from their expertise.

Mayor Thalhoffer asked is there anyone here that would like to speak to us on this issue?

No testimony received.

Councilor Gorsek stated I think it is a good idea to coordinate these efforts. We need help in terms of our parks program and so does Gresham and the rest of the region. Any additional coordinated organization that we can have will only help.

Councilor Thomas stated I think it is important to build a community and to build a handshake relationship with other groups in order to strengthen, not only our program, but other programs in the area so that the general populous that live in East County has access to a lot of the same programs that we might be able to provide or any other city might be able to provide on their own. I think it is a value to have a program like this that is willing to do that.

Mayor Thalhoffer stated I view this with mixed emotion. Over the years we have fought real hard for our parks and recreation program. It is a core value of the City of Troutdale and we are maintaining our parks and recreation program. Although we could expand it possibly with more man power, still it is a good little program. We are actually now doing somewhat of a People for Parks program of our own with the Troutdale recreation program by reaching out to other communities who don't have a recreation program like we do. Many of the people that take advantage of our recreation program come from Gresham, Wood Village and Fairview. I would want to make sure that before we entered into this type of collaboration that it wasn't something that was going to dilute our own program and take away from our core values, which obviously are stronger core values for parks and recreation programs than some other areas. I have nothing but good things to say about Kathy Minden and all of the good work that she has done. On the other hand I want us to stand-alone and if we are going to be involved in another organization I don't want to let that organization water down our program because their emphasis will be elsewhere.

Councilor Canfield stated I think having a collaborative effort and getting businesses, cities and schools together is a good idea. That is what community is, bringing people together with different points of view toward the common goal. I am not sure what I think Troutdale's position should be on this.

Councilor Kyle stated I believe that maybe sometime in the future we might want to steal a good idea and still be a stand-alone program. I think you have set a good example for us to look at how your program is working. As I mentioned, during our budget sessions our recreation coordinator mentioned she is looking for some help so she can expand the services that we offer.

Kathy Minden stated I believe that each of the cities should stand-alone. We don't want to have less parks and recreation support. We don't want to dilute your parks and recreation

program. We want to enhance and strengthen it and bring the other cities up to a new level as well.

Councilor Daoust stated this reminds me so much of Imagination Station because even though Troutdale had a good parks system and existing parks, there was still a need for community involvement and a need for grants from foundations to fund play structures or whatever you might put in an existing park. I am not worried about standing alone. I don't want to stand-alone. I think it would say something good for Troutdale if we were to support an organization like People for Parks in saying that Troutdale is sitting pretty good where we are at with parks; we are satisfied with our level of parkland that we have and now it is our turn to share the wealth. That is how I see it. I don't think we are committing any funds here so I am not worried that we are going to give away something. I think we can commit to sharing the wealth and bringing them under the umbrella of Troutdale's park system by sharing information and connecting web sites. Just simple things like that would show that we support and collaborate with People for Parks.

(Councilor Ripma arrived at 9:07pm)

Mayor Thalhofer stated I would like to see us refer this to the PAC.

Councilor Thomas stated I think what I heard from Kathy was not so much that the City Council necessarily endorse it or get involved. What they are asking is would Troutdale be willing to support their efforts as an organization. They want to be a stand-alone organization and they are willing to work with the parks committees within East County. I'm not sure they are asking us to send this to a study to go on further. I am not sure we need to go any further as a Council beyond what has happened tonight.

Councilor Daoust stated I think it could be taken to the PAC just simply as a brainstorming session on how Troutdale Parks could assist People for Parks and establish a list of ideas on how we could collaborate.

Councilor Thomas stated I would like to see the PAC get involved but I am not sure we need to refer this to them.

Councilor Gorsek stated I agree that the PAC needs to be involved but like Councilor Thomas I don't know that we need to refer anything to them. I really don't think that is what they are asking for; I think they are just informing us of what is happening.

Bruce Stannard stated this was just an informational presentation.

Councilor Ripma stated normally when we defer something to the PAC we establish a timeline for when we want to receive a report back but that is not what we are talking about here. I think what we might be talking about is when the People for Parks want to make their next presentation to us we would invite them to make that presentation to the PAC first. I would support that as being the logical first group to hear the presentation.

Councilor Canfield stated Kathy and Bruce have indicated that for now this is just informational. Bruce is on the Board so we will be in the loop as to what is going on. If there is something that the group wants to bring to us at a future time then we could refer them to the PAC. Lets just do what they want us to do. We heard the presentation and it was informational only. I don't see anything to refer right now.

Councilor Daoust stated I agree with Councilor Ripma and the Mayor that this is just an informal referral to the PAC so they can share information and talk about it and work with the People for Parks. Once it is established more than maybe we can receive more information, but I wouldn't be expecting a report back from the PAC right now.

**MOTION: Councilor Thomas moved to informally refer this to the Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) so they can share information and work with People for Parks. Once it gets up and going Council could be provided with more information, but we would not be expecting a report back from the PAC. Seconded by Councilor Ripma.**

**VOTE: Councilor Gorsek – Yes; Councilor Ripma – Yes; Councilor Thomas – Yes; Mayor Thalhofer – Yes; Councilor Canfield – Yes; Councilor Kyle – Yes; Councilor Daoust – Yes.**

**Motion Passed 7 – 0.**

## **7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Thomas stated at our last Council meeting we passed a resolution asking the City of Portland not to consolidate the MHCRC staff into their proposed new Revenue Bureau; Mayor Potter has agreed not to do that at this time.

Mayor Thalhofer stated I will be calling for a Troutdale Business Summit to hear from the businesses in our community which will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be working on a questionnaire to send out to all of the businesses to see what they think is good about Troutdale and what they think should be changed or improved by way of regulations.

Mayor Thalhofer stated I will be attending the City Hall Day at the Capital tomorrow and will be meeting with representatives to discuss some of the bills that are important to Troutdale, particularly the bill the Port of Portland has pending giving the state supersiting authority so they can trump the local zoning.

Mayor Thalhofer stated the Multnomah County Commissioners are holding a hearing this Thursday on the 242<sup>nd</sup> connector which is an extension from 242<sup>nd</sup> coming out of Gresham and becomes 238<sup>th</sup> down into Wood Village. The City of Troutdale has taken a stand in the past to oppose the 242<sup>nd</sup> connector.

Mayor Thalhofer stated Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey met with us today to talk about the E. County Roads. She will be introducing, on April 21<sup>st</sup>, a resolution to turn the Multnomah County roads that are within the City of Gresham limits over to the City of Gresham. I understand that there are no road maintenance funds that would be transferred over to the City of Gresham. The Council will be discussing this at its April 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

Councilor Daoust stated last Thursday John Anderson, Kathleen Leader and myself met with the City of Fairview to negotiate the building inspection fee. The meeting ended with a mutually agreeable compromise determining a process to use for splitting the revenue and cost of the building inspection program for this year and next year.

Councilor Daoust stated there has been a lot of discussion about air pollution in the Gorge. Troutdale needs to be in a position where this Council is entertained with information. I would like to propose that we have an air quality expert attend a Council work session and provide information to the Council on air quality issues that Troutdale should be informed about.

Council agreed to schedule a work session on this topic.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: Councilor Canfield moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

**Paul Thalhofer, Mayor**

**Approved May 10, 2005**

**ATTEST:**

**Debbie Stickney, City Recorder**