

RESOLUTION No.

Accept the generous donation of a substantial portion of Ross Island to the City of Portland (Resolution).

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Pamplin, Jr., and the Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company have generously offered to give a portion of Ross Island to the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Pamplin, Jr., has worked closely with City elected leaders (including Mayors Katz and Potter) and environmental advocates to fashion a donation agreement which both protects Ross Island natural resources and maintains the valuable family wage jobs provided by his company around the island; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland recognizes the importance of restoring and protecting the important habitat offered by Ross Island as cited in the City's River Renaissance strategy; and

WHEREAS, Ross Island was cited in the 1903 Olmsted Brothers Report for its potential for public ownership and protection; and

WHEREAS, Ross Island is home to a variety of native wildlife, including nesting bald eagles, great blue herons and river otter and is one of the premier wildlife viewing areas within the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, Ross Island has been identified by Portland Audubon as part of an international system of "Important Bird Areas"; and

WHEREAS, Ross Island represents an important refuge for threatened fish species; and

WHEREAS, Ross Island, combined with the adjacent 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Holgate Channel, represents a world class urban wildlife refuge system; and

WHEREAS, environmental advocates representing the Portland Audubon Society, Willamette Riverkeeper and the Urban Greenspaces Institute and others have worked tirelessly to protect the important environmental resources on Ross Island; and

WHEREAS, over 300 people have joined the newly formed Friends of Ross Island over the past year, and provide a growing pool of citizens eager to participate and partner with the city on the planning and restoration opportunities associated with Ross Island; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is ready to commit the resources, workforce and expertise necessary to develop a natural resource management plan for the island; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has the professional staff, level of expertise, and proven record of past successes in habitat restoration and management to successfully implement the natural resource management plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland recognizes the priceless value of Ross Island as a wildlife refuge and environmental resource for the community and for future generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland acknowledges that Dr. Robert Pamplin, Jr., was true to his word and commends him for his perseverance in fulfilling his promise to donate a portion of Ross Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland salutes the generosity of Dr. Robert Pamplin, Jr., and the Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company and thanks them for their gift of a portion of Ross Island; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland thanks the environmental advocates for the years of hard work and advocacy they brought to this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland proudly accepts the donation of a portion of Ross Island as outlined in the "Donation Agreement".

Adopted by the Council:

Gary Blackmer
Auditor of the City of Portland
By

Mayor Tom Potter
Prepared by: Veronica Valenzuela cd
October 24, 2007

Deputy