



Keizer RIVERR
(Regional Intergovernmental Visions Enhancing River Resources)
Task Force Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.
Keizer City Hall ~ Council Chamber

Call to Order ~ Chair Richard Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Roll Call ~ The following were present:

RIVERR Task Force:

Richard Walsh, Chair
Ron Campbell, Oregon State Parks
Rich Ford, Parks Advisory Board
Christine Dieker, Keizer Chamber
David Louden, Citizen-at-large
Mike Kirby, Citizen-at-large
Dan Clem, City of Salem (arrived 5:48)
Ron Anderson, Bikeways (for Hersch Sangster)
Tanya Beard, Marion County Public Works
Janet Carlson, Marion County Commissioner (620)
Beth Daniell, Claggett Creek Watershed Council
(non-voting member)
Sara McDonald, Marion County Commissioner
(for Janet Carlson)

Parks Advisory Board:

Garry Whalen
Bill Riesland
Vickie Hilgemann
Clint Holland

Staff:

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder
Nate Brown, Community Development

Also Present:

Rhonda Rich
Anita Bewley
Bev McClure
Boby Parkes
Del Evrisk
Richard Miller
Tim Kesh
Leslie Nicholas
Rod Augee
Travis Tarrell
Victoria Lacey
Shirley Bond
Loren Bosten
Barbara & Cliff Moeller
Rod & Linda King
Jill & Jerry Nuttbrock
Diane Johnson
Al McCann
Absent:
Hersch Sangster, Bikeways
Mark Brown, Willamette River Navigator

Approval of Minutes ~ Christine Dieker moved to approve the September 21, 2005 Minutes. Dan Clem seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present. (Walsh, Campbell, Ford, Dieker, Louden, Kirby, Clem, Anderson, Beard and McDonald).

Appearance of Interested Citizens ~ Rhonda Rich, Keizer, stated that she approved of the Park Board's suggestion of Cummings Elementary School location for a west

Keizer neighborhood park rather than locating a neighborhood park within the borders of the Keizer Rapids Park. She submitted a petition signed by neighbors within ¼ mile of the proposed bike access to the park voicing opposition to the proposed 15th Street access and supporting a single access off Chemawa Road. The petition also opposed using the park for any festivals, concerts and/or athletic events, and using their neighborhood for overflow parking. Nate Brown responded that the master planning effort is a lengthy process and no immediate action could be taken but since the master planning development would be addressed at this meeting their input was useful. Chair Walsh encouraged Ms. Rich to attend the Bikeways Committee meeting later that evening.

Tim Kelsh, Keizer, expressed concern about accessibility to his back yard by park users noting that vandalism was a concern. He recommended a physical barrier such as fencing around the corner of the park adjacent to the backyard of Rafael Court to protect the neighborhood and to keep users away from the deep part of the Willamette.

Old Business/New Business

- **Questionnaire Report** ~ Senior Planner, Sam Litke, explained that there were 1560 responses to the questionnaire. The top three preferences were: Day use/picnicking, local access Community Park and trails. Approximately 25-30 respondents voiced concern about taxes and maintenance. Nate Brown added that the results were being entered into the data base along with comments and would be available in e-mail or hard copy when complete. Additionally the results of the "interests" fit well with the grants that have been received and the results from the survey will be helpful as application is made for future grants.
- **Updates** ~ Rich Ford reported that Boy Scout Troup 121 has developed a new campsite on the island between Spong's Landing and Keizer Rapids; an effort is being made in Eugene to designate the Willamette as a National Heritage River which is different than an American Heritage River and should be an additional source for grants. The Willamette Water Trail has been established between Buena Vista Ferry to Wheatland Ferry with a second phase being considered. When completed there will be a river trail from Eugene to Willamette Mission Park. It is hoped that eventually the river trail will extend to the metro area and eventually to the Columbia River.
- **Local Needs Assessment** ~ Nate Brown explained that information has been gathered from the City of Salem, Marion County and the State of Oregon and now needs to be examined to determine area needs. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the "gap inventory" and the methodology used to determine needs. Dan Clem agreed to check with the Salem City Manager to get a representative to work on the Salem portion of this; Tanya Beard agreed to work on the Marion County portion and Nate Brown agreed to work on the Keizer portion. Rich Ford agreed that Parks Advisory Board would select a representative member to sit on this group as well. It was the consensus of the task force that the representatives should look at all aspects of parks, not just those on the questionnaire.

- *Potential Future Grants* ~ There have been no applications submitted at this time. Applications will be made at different times throughout the development process.
- *Updated Timeline* ~ Sam Litke reviewed the updated timeline noting that the end dates are still the same and pointing out that the committee may choose to have more outreach at the 2006 Iris Festival; the first community open house is scheduled for January, 2006. This open house will be introductory in nature however park planning input will be received from those in attendance. The second open house in March 2006 will be a continuation of planning with April being the target date to present a plan for the park to the public at large.

Discussion then took place regarding a method to keep the neighborhood informed of park progress. Members of the audience complained about the process and voiced opposition to the formation of the park. Mr. Walsh explained that the inventories and the overall process were necessary to do a complete, thorough master plan with involvement of the entire community; therefore, all decisions must wait for the full process to take place. Mr. Brown added that the City is bound by rules of public participation; this is what makes local government. Councilor Taylor noted that this park was an opportunity that if not seized when available, could have been lost forever. He added that the park is going to happen and everyone will have input and their concerns will be heard and hopefully met. Additional discussion took place regarding security and access to the park. In conclusion, Mr. Brown noted that a small percentage of the 1500 respondents to the questionnaire were opposed to the park; the remainder was in favor. Therefore, the city has a responsibility to incorporate all those voices and proceed with the planning of the park.

Adjourn ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

***Next Meeting ~ November 16, 2005
Council Chamber***