



Keizer RIVERR
(Regional Intergovernmental Visions Enhancing River Resources)
Task Force & Parks Advisory Board
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.
Keizer City Hall

Call to Order ~ Chair Richard Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Roll Call ~ The following were present:

RIVERR Task Force:

Richard Walsh, Chair
Red Vanis, Bikeways
Janet Carlson, Marion County
Rhonda Rich, WKNA
Beth Daniell, Claggett Creek Watershed
David Loudon, Citizen-at-large
Mark Brown, Willamette River Navigator
Christine Dieker, Keizer Chamber

Parks Advisory Board:

Garry Whalen
Clint Holland
David Philbrick
Vickie Hilgemann, Parks Board

Staff:

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder
Nate Brown, Community Development

Also Present:

Dr. E. George Sitkei
Darrell Richardson
Jim Sahlstrom
Diane Johnson
Jeanne Bond-Esser

Absent:

Dan Clem, City of Salem
Mike Gaynor, Parks Board
Dan Miller, National Park Service
Bill Riesland, Parks Board
Russ Dille, Marion County Public Works
Mike Kirby, Citizen-at-large
Ron Campbell, Oregon State Parks
Rich Ford, Parks Advisory Board

Approval of Minutes ~ Mark Brown moved to approve the September 2006 Joint Session Minutes. Christine Dieker seconded. The motion passed as follows: Walsh, Carlson, Whalen, Holland, Philbrick, Hilgemann in favor with Loudon, Brown, Vanis and Dieker abstaining.

Appearance of Interested Citizens ~ None

Old Business/New Business

Darlene Hooley's Top Two Priorities – Mark Brown reported that Congresswoman Hooley would be hosting a community forum on October 19 to gather information from communities along the Willamette. This would be an opportunity to share thoughts, dreams and visions for the area. He suggested putting forward ideas that would benefit, complement and augment what has already happened in the park adding that this was

not only about communities connecting with the river, but equally about communities connecting with each other. Nate Brown summarized that this would be an opportunity for the constituents to introduce legislative documents to assist in reaching priorities for the river. Richard Walsh explained the background of the Willamette River Water Trail/Willamette River Communities Coalition adding that by applying for grants jointly with other communities, the regionality of a project is highlighted improving the odds for receiving the grant. He suggested, for example, a fund for land acquisition along the Willamette. Additional discussion took place regarding the possibility of dredging the river, a bridge over the river, providing property owners along the river with incentives to allow access which would also address liability concerns, strengthening the Clean Water Act, educational facilities and points of interest along the river, pedestrian bridges and 150 miles of trail by 2009 (Oregon's 150th birthday).

Following this discussion, members agreed by consensus that Richard Walsh should attend the forum and offer the following suggestions:

- Enhancing and reinforcing the recreation potential of the river through
 - ❖ Dredging
 - ❖ Water clean-up
 - ❖ Incentives for using the greenway for providing access
 - ❖ Educational facilities and points of interest
 - ❖ Land acquisition and development to provide river access
- 150 miles of trail by the 150th Anniversary with trail and road connections including pedestrian bridges ~ "150 by 150"
- Developing the "string of pearls" concept

Park Policies - Interim Policies, i.e. Public Access ~ Nate Brown reviewed the proposed interim policies and pointed out that they would only be effective until the land use process is completed and the park becomes official. Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that the park should be closed to the public during the land use hearing process except by special permission. Permitted users would be subject to the interim policies with the clarification that "Fires are only allowed in *the* designated area." Nate agreed to recommend acceptance of the park interim policies and closure at the next Council meeting.

Grant Updates – Richard Walsh reported that the Audubon Society Board has agreed to recommend to the city and their membership building a 4,000 square foot educational facility to accommodate offices and classrooms at Keizer Rapids Park - a \$400,000 to \$500,000 investment. Mark Brown encouraged everyone to consider the timing on this and the possibility of setting it up with grant cycles and using the \$400,000 Audubon funds as a "match" for a larger grant where several educational grant opportunities could be wrapped together to benefit the park. David Philbrick cautioned that it was important to think about conditions and strings attached to grants to protect the public interest so that it is beneficial for the city and for Audubon.

Other Business – Nate Brown directed attention to the Dr. Sitkei's handout regarding the possible site plan for the amphitheater. He voiced concern because this proposal

was based on the Shoshone tribe and the Shoshones are not part of the local cultural heritage for this area. He noted that he would be cautious about adopting this vernacular because local tribes might not be willing to fund something that was not representative of their tribe.

Mr. Brown then explained that the Boat Ramp Task Force was established by Council when they adopted the Keizer Rapids Master Plan, and would meet with the Marine Board to work out design issues relating to the Marine Board expectations vs. neighborhood. Membership will be determined by the Council.

Where do we go from here? - Nate urged members to think about the life of the committee as the park is developed and how it relates to the Parks Board. The initial task for the committee was to develop a master plan. Mr. Walsh added that the original task force was charged with reconnecting to the Willamette with the first phase being to complete the master plan. There was no further direction for a second phase. Mr. Brown encouraged members to give some thought to this for discussion at the next meeting.

***Next Meeting ~ November 15, 2006
Council Chambers***

Minutes approved:
