



Keizer RIVERR
(Regional Intergovernmental Visions Enhancing River Resources)
Task Force Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.
Keizer City Hall ~ Conference Room B

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

The following were present:

Present:

Richard Walsh, Chair
Ron Campbell, Oregon State Parks
Mark Brown, Willamette River Navigator
Rich Ford, Parks Advisory Board (left 6:40)
Christine Dieker, Keizer Chamber (left 6:45)
David Loudon, Citizen-at-large
Mike Kirby, Citizen-at-large
Dan Clem, City of Salem (arrived 5:48)
Red Vanis, Bikeways (for Hersch Sangster)

Staff:

Cathy Lenox, Admin Assist for Debbie L.
Cheryl Vafakos, Senior Planner

Absent:

Hersch Sangster, Bikeways
Tanya Beard, Marion County Public Works
Janet Carlson, Marion County
Commissioner

Also Present:

Mike Stiers
Bill George
Shirley Bond
Loren Boster
Gordon Miller
Dr. E. George Sitkei
Dianne Johnson
Curtis Sylvester
Rhonda Rich
Bob & Eleanor Koski
Jerry & Jill Nuttbrock
Lisa Layne
Jim Hanson
S. DeShon
Darrell Richardson
Bob Luoma
Micaela Maestas
Sara McDonald

Approval of Minutes ~ Mark Brown moved to approve the August 17, 2005 Minutes. Mike Kirby seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present: (Walsh, Campbell, Vanis, Brown, Ford, Dieker, Loudon and Kirby).

Appearance of Interested Citizens ~

Chair Walsh requested that interested citizens state their names for recording purposes however some chose not to participate.

Richard Chesbrough, Captain, Sternwiller of the Willamette Queen, expressed his interest in offering tours between Salem and Keizer but explained that the gravel bar

located at McClain Island prevents this. He added, however, that legislation is pending for maintenance dredging in various areas of the river and requested that everyone offer support to Representative Brian Boquist, who is leading this action at the state legislature. He concluded with a suggestion to include a dock in the master plan that could accommodate a boat of this size.

Dr. E. George Sitkei, Woodland Manager Program, OSU Extension, encouraged the committee to include students and schools in the master planning and requested that an area of the park be kept natural for educational programs. He explained that there are programs available to facilitate educational programs naming the Oregon Forestry Research Institute and the Oregon Urban & Community Forestry Assistance program specifically.

Micaela Maestas, Project Coordinator, JEM (Juvenile Enrichment Mentoring), explained that JEM, a non-profit organization working with AmeriCorps, provides service learning projects and mentors and is currently working with youth in grades 4 through 8. She encouraged the task force to utilize this resource for projects in the park adding that they are specifically hoping to find a project in October and January on MLK Day.

Bill George – Rafael ST, expressed concern over security at the park and usage by homeless and inquired if this issue had been addressed. Chair Walsh responded that Marion County has agreed to provide security with cadet patrol and that because the homeless traditionally prefer uninhabited areas, it is believed that they will move further north as the park is developed and frequented by local citizens.

Bob Luoma, Cyclist, voiced his support of preliminary reports on developing walking and peddling trails, leaving the forest in its natural state as much as possible. He expressed concern that if this focused on auto access, much of the park will end up being parking lots. Richard responded, explaining the different sections of the park and the plans.

Rhonda Rich, Rafael ST, spoke on behalf of the 20 neighbors that she surveyed regarding having a bike path in their neighborhood with access to the park. It was clear that they do not want a path or access to the park from their neighborhood and the anticipated increased litter, vandalism and traffic. They ask that the Task Force protect their neighborhood and suggested extending the Chemawa bike path into the park. Additional discussion took place regarding a possible “neighborhood buffer”, neighborhood park vs. regional park, and maintenance and policing concerns.

Gordon Miller, Rivercrest, asked if an environmental impact study had been completed. Dan Clem responded that this was one of the requirements for the grants. Ron Campbell also addressed the issue, stating that lease for the 85 acres, required a Natural Resource Inventory be done, which was conducted by Oregon Natural Heritage. Clarification was made that no ‘impact’ study has been done to date.

Other concerns brought forward were the hours the park would be open, and the use of motorized scooters on the paths. Chair Walsh expressed appreciation to all who had participated adding that knowing their concerns will help in the planning process.

Old Business/New Business

- **Questionnaire Report** ~ Associate Planner, Cheryl Vafakos, reported that currently, 801 surveys have been tabulated, including on-line surveys, with 736 remaining. Cheryl then reviewed a preliminary report showing graphs of the 1st and 2nd choices: day use/picnicking were rated at the top of both choices with hiking trails, nature trails and playgrounds following close behind. Cheryl will present a full report of all surveys next month.
- **Grant Update (Grant Restrictions and Appointment Update)** ~ Cheryl reported on grant funding. The Charge property will be closing on the 29th of September, with funding from SDCs, Local Government Grant and Marion County Title III money. Staff is still working on the 2nd property. More information will be available at the next meeting. There was clarification that no Urban Renewal Funds are being used and the City will be taking possession the same day as closing. Mrs. Charge has one year to relocate.
- **Local Needs Assessment** ~ Ron Campbell submitted reports from State/Regional Recreation and results of a recent survey of Recreation on the Willamette River. Cheryl will get an inventory of Keizer Parks at the next meeting. Mark Brown suggested that these items be posted on the Marion County Intranet.
- **Potential Future Grants** ~ There have been no applications submitted at this time. Applications will be made at different times throughout the development process. Dr. Sitkei offered to provide a list of potential grants to staff.

Bikeways Recommendation ~ Red Vanis, representing the Keizer Bikeways Committee reported that after visiting the park area and access points, both on 15th and Chemawa, the committee is recommending that a bike path and access for Keizer Rapids Park be off 15th Street. Not only did they take into consideration the existing bike routes and paths, but also security access to that end of the park. There was clarification on the consideration of Chemawa Road as a possibility, noting that the Bikeways Committee did not discount Chemawa Road altogether. Other items they are working on are education and helmet grants.

Master Planning ~ Postponed until next meeting when Dan Miller can be there to report.

Alvarez/Nuttbrock Boundary Issues Update

- **Nuttbrock** ~ There were no updates at this time. Chair Walsh reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting regarding the Alvarez property and moving the fence to the actual property line. Ms. Vafakos explained that Marion County had examined the area to see if Title III money could be used for this purpose, but found nothing to justify use of these funds. Following discussion regarding a formal proposal to the Nuttbrocks, Mr. Walsh offered to meet with Chris Eppley and Nate Brown to revisit this option, and get back to Mr. Nuttbrock.

Adjourn ~ Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**Next Meeting ~ October 19, 2005
Conference Room A**