



Keizer RIVERR
(Regional Intergovernmental Visions Enhancing River Resources)
Task Force Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 5:30 p.m.
Keizer City Hall ~ Conference Room B

1. Call to Order:

Chair Richard Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm..

2. Roll Call:

The following members were present: Richard Walsh, Ron Campbell, Darrell Monk, Mike Kirby, Kasia Quillinan and Hershe Sangster; and Clark Williams, also attending were staff members, Nate Brown and Rob Kissler.

Chair Walsh explained that Mike Ryan had resigned his position on the Task Force. He stated that a new Marion County Commissioner would be assigned by the next meeting and noted that a new Chamber assignment might be necessary as well.

3. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Appearance of Interested Citizens

None

5. Old Business/New Business

❖ Potential Grant Opportunities and Deadlines

Chair Walsh distributed copies of the City Council document forming, and outlining the function of, the Task Force one of which is to explore funding in light of grant opportunities. Ron Campbell, from Oregon Parks and Recreation, filled in for Mark Brown relaying various grant opportunities available.

He reported there were three grant programs administered by Oregon Parks & Recreation that are relevant: (1) The Land & Water Conservation Fund grant Program providing funds for land acquisition and facility development with a 50/50 grant/match, (2) The Grant Program for Trail Development, and (3) The Local Government Opportunity Grant Program.

Chair Walsh pointed out that Marion County has programs that may be available and that subject would be addressed at the next meeting. He noted that funds from the sale of Marion County timber would, hopefully, be available next year for disbursement.

Chair Walsh continued with discussion regarding the Marion County Comprehensive Plan. He noted that section 75 of the plan voiced a desire to "acquire and develop a 50-acre park south of Spong's Landing in the Beardsley Bar-Wright's Rocks area" which is the area the Task Force is focusing on. The plan additionally states that the park "should contain bicycle paths near Willamette River from Salem to Spong's Landing, Willamette Mission and Wheatland Ferry for the path to cross the river and tie into Polk County path. The path should also connect Salem with other communities. These paths should follow existing rights of way and roads where possible." Mr. Walsh noted that this plan is 10 years old and should be helpful since the goal is the same as that of the Task Force.

Chair Walsh used the map to point out that there are two land owners that separate the City of Keizer and the 85-acre park. Both landowners have been in contact with Mr. Walsh indicating their desire to sell and are scheduled to meet with Mr. Walsh on October 24. The purchase of these properties would bring the park to the City of Keizer and provide space for possible parking or a soccer field.

Members discussed whether or not it was desirable to purchase these parcels and alternative forms of acquisition, funding and usage. Consideration was given to purchasing only the riverfront/access portion of the properties. Clark Williams noted that the Park Plan calls for a West Keizer park, and that this area would be centrally located north and south but not east and west. Mr. Walsh stated that the combination of the two parks might be beneficial in promoting usage and maintenance of both and suggested the possibility of getting contributions from other jurisdictions such as the City of Salem and Marion County as well as contacting a group called "Land Trusts", and the federal government. The possibility of these parcels or a portion thereof being donated by the owners was discussed as well as the option of establishing a Charitable Neighbor Trust. Members considered naming portions of the park after donating parties.

Responding to inquiries about funding for these purchases Mr. Walsh noted that there are many funding sources available for the purchase of land including \$700,000 in SDC funds, but assistance would be requested from Marion County,

because the purchase would serve to further the completion of the Marion County Master Plan (Section 75).

Discussion continued regarding park access, the city owning property outside the city limits, zoning, provisions in state rules for local park planning and park and recreation uses on agriculture and forest lands, and maintenance costs. Chair Walsh compared this high-acreage park to Minto-Brown Park in Salem, which is 900 acres and is one of the least costly parks to maintain.

Members agreed to pursue the possibility of acquisition of these additional properties and to recommend partnering with other jurisdictions for the purpose of acquisition of this land.

❖ ***Election of a Vice Chair***

Chair Walsh asked for nominations to fill the position of Vice Chair.

Clark Williams nominated Hershe Sangster to fill the position of Vice Chair. Mike Kirby seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously as follows:

AYES: Walsh, Campbell, Monk, Kirby, Quillinan, Sangster, and Williams (7)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSTENTIONS: None (0)

ABSENT: Jones and Ryan (2)

❖ ***Brainstorm of Ideas for Keizer Rapids Park***

Members discussed various ideas for the park. Suggestions were: gravel/bark hiking trails, nature trails with identifying plaques on plants and historical markers, river access (boat landing/launches), restroom facilities, game fields, parking, open and enclosed picnic shelters, beach area, dog water park including a field for dog training and a two-part trail for bikers, rollerbladers and skate boarders and ADA accessibility with a separate trail for walkers.

The possibility of limiting the park to a day-use area and/or installing a gate to reduce night activity was considered as well as making Windsor Island an overnight camping area by special permit only, eliminating overnight camping anywhere else in the park.

6. Adjourn

Next meeting Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 5:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The Willamette Concord

(Keizer Proclamation)

Whereas the Willamette River is: the life-blood of the Eden at the End of the Oregon Trail; Oregon's largest river; and one of but 14 nationally designated American Heritage Rivers-and therefore a local, regional and statewide treasure;

Whereas the Cities of Independence, Salem, and Keizer have important historic links with each other and the Willamette River;

Whereas Independence, Salem, and Keizer have long been, and continue to be, committed to the stewardship of the Willamette and its tributaries;

Whereas Independence, Salem, and Keizer have rapidly growing populations that both need and deserve the opportunity to experience our Willamette River in both developed and natural settings...

Whereas Independence, Salem, and Keizer are adjacent communities that pride themselves on long-range, big-picture thinking expressed through efficient government...

Whereas the City of Keizer is the Willamette Rivers' newest river city and yet has special historical ties to the Willamette River that included river boat landings and possibly even the Wallace House which was the oldest European settlement in the Willamette valley, and that Keizer has the potential to better connect to the Willamette River and to act as the gateway to the Keizer Rapids and Willamette Mission State Park (site of Jason Lee's settlement, the second earliest settlement in Oregon) and the Wheatland Ferry; and,

Whereas the City of Keizer recognizes even further potential connections to the Willamette are enhanced when Keizer works in a coordinated manner with its neighboring Willamette River cities of Salem and Independence, to achieve the common goal of maximizing the various potentials of the Willamette River for all residents of the Mid Willamette Valley.

Now therefore be it resolved:

The City of Keizer, in concert with its neighboring communities, agrees the following goals should guide inter-community collaboration with regard to the Willamette River:

- _ Identify and improve recreation opportunities on and along the river consistent with private property rights;
- _ Increase river-related commerce and tourism
- _ Increase public awareness of the Willamette River as a central part of Mid-Valley life
- _ Seek to leverage local funding by identifying and pursuing additional funding opportunities at state, regional, and federal levels to secure the benefits of a healthy Willamette for mid-Valley residents

Be it further resolved that:

Given the past, present and future importance of the Willamette River to the City of Keizer, the City agrees to work collaboratively with the Cities of Salem and Independence to:

Undertake a joint examination of existing and potential future land-based connections to the Willamette River and environment, that may include: biking,

hiking, and walking trails and routes; inter-city connection and coordination opportunities; the incorporation of existing or future bridges or public rights of way to accommodate non-motorized connections along and across the River; and an inventory of existing public parcels and access points with an assessment of how they meet recreational needs.

Support the designation of the Willamette River as a high priority candidate for future water trail development in state and federal recreation planning.

Explore the development of a comprehensive, tri-City framework for meeting current and future recreational needs relating to the River and to river-related commerce, that may include: evaluating cities' parks and recreation master plans for consistency and mutual benefit, as well as identifying common funding needs and approaches.

Encourage citizens to celebrate June 7, 2003 as Willamette River Day and to encourage the participation of citizens in similar future events that increase their familiarity with and enjoyment of the River.

Dated this _____ day of October, 2003.

Lore Christopher
Mayor of the City of Keizer