



**WALLACE HOUSE TASK FORCE
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 15, 2006
6:00 p.m. Keizer City Hall
Conference Room A**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moir called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present

Councilor Jacque Moir, Chair
Vickie Hilgemann, Vice Chair
Darrell Monk
Kathie Beach
Butch Dunn
Jeanne Bond-Esser

Staff Present

Terry Witham, Parks Staff

Absent:

Councilor David McKane

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the August 2, 2006 meeting were approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- A letter from Wilbur Bluhm to Jacque Moir regarding the location of the Wallace House was distributed.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

➤ **Follow-up on Recommendations to Parks Board/City Council ~**

○ **Dr. Brauner:**

- Jacque reported that the Parks Advisory Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for a stipend for Dr. Brauner to conduct the dig. She indicated that the Council may be interested in increasing that if necessary.
- Darrell will talk to Dr. Brauner again to tell him about the continued interest and the stipend. He will confirm Terry's understanding that the brush in the south end of the upper level can be cleared without negatively impacting a prospective dig. He will let Dr. Brauner know that Chris Eppley is the person to contact regarding what is required by the City in terms of permits, description of the scope of work, etc.

○ **Brush Removal**

- Terry has contacted a man with a “hydro-axe” who will be brought in later in the fall or winter to cut back the berry bushes which have grown into the lawn area on the upper part of the park. He is waiting until after neighbors have a chance to pick the berries.
- Terry indicated that the Division of State Lands controls activity on the lower bench and would not permit any machinery/equipment to be used there to clear brush. That is the area where inmate labor would be used to clear two or three paths to the river; the likely locations of the paths would be where old paths used to be on the north and south end of the park. He reported that Rob Kissler is talking about four days of inmate labor. Since high water affects the area and leaves debris, inmate labor would likely not be used until spring.
- The plan currently is not to clear all the undergrowth and brush from the lower bench; rather, most would be left natural.
- There is not yet agreement about what to do about the brush under the large trees along the bank area.
- Terry indicated that neighbors would be notified ahead of time when the work is going to begin. It was suggested that if a letter is written to the neighbors, it might include a description of what they might expect to see (e.g., machinery, crews clearing) and the scope of the work (e.g., limited brush removal).

➤ **Neighborhood Involvement ~**

- Chair Moir welcomed new member Butch Dunn, who lives in the immediate area of the park, as does member Kathie Beach. Butch and Kathie relayed concerns expressed by the neighbors, especially those adjacent to the park:
 - Concerns about siting the parking area in the north (separated) part of the park: The foot traffic behind one residence; the negative “after-dark” crowd that might gather in a dark parking lot; adequate screening/fencing/posting to keep people off private property; the previous availability of that area as a paved basketball court. Possibility of locating parking in the south end, providing night time lighting.
 - Vickie explained that currently Dr. Brauner thinks the historically significant site is located in the Southwest area of the upper level.
 - Jacque pointed out that since the City parks are closed after dark, the City does not light them. Also, the fact that Glynbrook has a traffic signal on River Road was a consideration in the north location.
 - Terry noted that parking will be needed if there is much drive-in use, though most neighborhood parks do not have parking areas.
 - Osprey: Concerns about the osprey nesting there.
- It was agreed that neighbors will be surveyed between now and the next meeting to get their input.
 - Survey will include
 - open-ended questions to elicit both what residents feel is most desirable and least desirable. (What would they like to see in the

park? What would they NOT like to see in the park?) Also, if parking were to be included in the park, where would they like to see it located?

- a few specific ideas for residents to react to (included below in next section)
- open-ended question about ideas for identifying/explaining the historical aspect
- would they like to be notified if/when the dig happens?
- An informational “fact sheet” will be distributed for residents to keep
 - explain the historical information, significance of south end
 - include what has NOT been decided yet; process that will take place
- Terry and Vicky will prepare the fact sheet and the survey
- Butch, Kathie, David, Darrell, Vickie and Jacque will go house to house on Sunday, August 27, 2006, starting at 3:00.
- Debbie will post the survey on the City website to get feedback from those not contacted personally; Jacque will announce it at the City Council meeting once it is online.

➤ **Continued Discussion of Park Development**

- Members agreed that the Task Force could recommend several options for the parking area location and the number of parking spaces to the Parks Advisory Board; the Board or the contractor hired for the master planning could make the decision. Butch requested that if a dig does not turn up any evidence in the south area of the park that that area be considered, too.
- Current ideas for park features include
 - picnic tables
 - benches to view the river
 - osprey nesting pole/platform to eventually replace the dying tree
 - pathways from the upper area to the lower bench and rivers edge.
 - “Big boy toys” or other children’s play structure
 - a plaque or other feature noting the historical significance of the area
 - most of the area will be left natural

➤ **Historical status**

- It was agreed to continue with the name “Wallace House” for the park as this is how it is referred to in 19th century documents. Terry noted that “House” was the 19th century term used by the Pacific Fur Company and later companies to denote a local center for their fur business (e.g., Spokane House, etc.). Jacque will let Debbie know.

6. NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Discussion of Mr. Bluhm’s letter**

- Vickie briefly reviewed the history of the current efforts to establish the likely location of the Wallace House, noting that it began when Don Upjohn “handed off” the project to her over 6 years ago. A schedule of Marion County Historical Society’s events indicates that Don Upjohn gave a presentation about the

Wallace House in March 1998. This is likely the program that Mr. Bluhm attended and refers to in his letter.

- Vicky will send a brief letter to Mr. Bluhm, thanking him for his information and letting him know that she will be in contact with Don Upjohn, who presented the program Mr. Bluhm attended.
- Vicky will talk with Don Upjohn about his presentation in 1998.
- A follow-up letter to Mr. Bluhm may be sent.

➤ **Change of meeting date in September**

- Because of the Labor Day weekend, the next meeting date will be changed to Wednesday, September 6, 2006, at 6:00 pm at the City Hall. Jacque or Debbie will confirm room availability.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

*Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2006 - 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room A or TBA*

Approved: 9-6-06