



Keizer RIVERR
(Regional Intergovernmental Visions Enhancing River Resources)
Task Force & Parks Advisory Board
Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.
Keizer City Hall ~ Police Auditorium

Call to Order ~ Chair Richard Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Roll Call ~ The following were present:

RIVERR Task Force:

Richard Walsh, Chair
Ron Campbell, Oregon State Parks
Rich Ford, Parks Advisory Board
Red Vanis, Bikeways
Mark Brown, Willamette River Navigator
(left at 7:45)
Janet Carlson, Marion County
Christine Dieker, Keizer Chamber
Russ Dilley, Marion County Public Works
Mike Kirby, Citizen-at-large
Jerry Nuttbrock, WKNA
Beth Daniell, Claggett Creek Watershed

Parks Advisory Board:

Garry Whalen
Clint Holland (arrived at 6:00)
David Philbrick
Bill Riesland (left at 7:45)
Jacque Moir, Council Liaison (left at 7:45)

Also Present:

Dr. E. George Sitkei
Jill Nuttbrock
Diane Johnson
Rhonda Rich
Don Beckman
Raenell Ochampaugh
Nanci Nowlen
Al & Carole McCann
Pat Dodge
Jean Bond-Esser
Jim Hanson

Absent:

Dan Clem, City of Salem
Mike Gaynor, Parks Board
Vickie Hilgemann, Parks Board
Dan Miller, National Park Service
David Loudon, Citizen-at-large

Staff:

Debbie Lockhart, Deputy City Recorder
Nate Brown, Community Development
Sam Litke, Senior Planner

Approval of Minutes ~ Mark Brown moved to approve the May 2006 Joint Session Minutes. Red Vanis seconded. The motion passed as follows: Walsh, Campbell, Ford, Vanis, Brown, Carlson, Dieker, Dilley, Philbrick, Whalen and Riesland in favor with Kirby abstaining and Clem, Gaynor, Hilgemann and Loudon absent and Holland absent at the time of the vote.

Old Business/New Business

- *Results of Design Charette Balloting and Recommendation to Council* ~ Nate Brown reported that the design scenarios had been displayed at the Chamber luncheon and additional input received. A tally of votes from the charettes and the Chamber luncheon was done and recommendation to council was formulated. Mr. Brown showed a conceptual plan and the task force reviewed various aspects of the plan. Discussion took place at length regarding the location of the dog park, parking and picnic areas. Members agreed to receive input from interested citizens at this time.

Appearance of Interested Citizens.

Pat Dodge, *Salem Audubon Society*, reported that the Society is exploring possible sites for a nature facility and, after touring Keizer Rapids Park, is interested in locating the facility in the park. He explained that the facility would consist of office, exhibit, retail and classroom areas and would develop programs on birding and conservation. The Site Selection Committee will make a recommendation to the board of directors to pursue this possibility with the city of Keizer with the intent that a decision would be made and approved by membership by the end of August. Discussion followed regarding the location of the facility and hours of operation.

Don Beckman, noted that he liked the composite plan of the different scenarios. He encouraged incorporating as many amenities as possible into the park concluding that the more it is used the safer it will be.

Dr. George Sitkei offered to work with any other organization toward development of an educational facility.

Rhonda Rich, *West Keizer Neighborhood Association*, encouraged the placement of the dog park close to the entrance of the park, the playground away from the neighborhood and parking near the playground.

Raenell Ochampaugh and Nanci Nowlen, echoed Ms. Rich's comments.

Al McCann, questioned why Scenario B was not the concept of choice. Mr. Brown explained that components were taken from each scenario to comprise what would be recommended to Council. Mr. McCann recommended that the area near the river be left as natural as possible in order to preserve the wildlife and the natural feel.

Jean Bond-Esser, suggested two dog parks: a smaller park in the flat land and a larger area in the forested region of the park.

Jim Hanson, questioned why the Chamber was included in the voting and what formed the basis for the concept developed adding that perhaps other city groups should be included in the voting process. Mr. Brown explained that he used commonalities that were shown on all the scenarios to develop the concept.

Continued discussion on recommendation to Council.

The following recommendations were agreed upon for inclusion in the recommendation to council:

1. Include the pedestrian bridge design over the pedestrian path at the boat ramp as shown on Scenario "D". Design features would be subject to varying water levels, subject to Marine Board approval and would be designed to eliminate technical issues. (Approved unanimously.)
2. Utilize the access easement on the Alvarez property to maximize area for park improvements. (Approved by vote: Holland move, Kirby second. Vote all in favor with Carlson and Nuttbrock opposed.)
3. Include an entryway feature into the park as generally shown in Scenario "A". (All in favor with Riesland opposed.)
4. Include parking closer to the BMX area as shown in Scenario "E". (All in favor with Whalen opposed and Riesland abstaining.)
5. Include a (low intensity use) trailhead in the northwest forested area of the park as shown in Scenario "D". (All in favor with Nuttbrock opposed.)
6. Add picnic facilities and associated parking near BMX area. (Approved unanimously.)
7. Place the picnic/playground area in the southeast quadrant as shown in Scenario "B". (Approved unanimously.)
8. Fitness stations incorporated into the trail system as shown in Scenario "B" (low priority). (Approved unanimously.)
9. Include a large multi-use area compatible with softball and soccer as noted in Scenario "D" and "E". (Approved unanimously.)
10. Locate the off-leash dog area as shown in Scenario "B" including adequate parking nearby. (Approved unanimously.)

Additional discussion took place regarding durable surface materials available for use on pathways that would meet the requirements of the conservation easement and access needs.

- *Grant Opportunities:* Chair Walsh reported that a program grant was available from the Oregon Community Foundation with an August 15 deadline. Clint Holland moved to recommend staff move forward on this grant application. Red Vanis seconded. Motion passed unanimously by all members present.
- *Buchanan Property Update:* Chair Walsh reported that Mr. Buchanan has agreed to give the city an option on his property and City Council has authorized obtaining same.

Adjourn ~ Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

***Next Meeting ~ August 16, 2006
Council Chambers***

Minutes approved:

9-6-06