

Riverfront Board Meeting
September 22, 2003
Minutes

Members Present: Wall, Verbout, Green, Loaiza, Martin, Klein, Stacey

Jeff King, from City staff, and representatives of the Oregon Downtown Development Association (ODDA) and SERA met with the Board to identify priorities the group had for Downtown or Riverfront Development. Input from this Board and other groups will be collated into a report to the City regarding how to move forward with projects identified in the Downtown Riverfront Plan. This project is funded by a grant from ODDA.

Herrigel described the history of the Riverfront Plan development. She noted that the next steps involved finishing the final design for Phase I, submitting the plan for Planning Commission approval and finally, developing Phase I. The largest stumbling block to all these activities is funding, she said. To that end, she is working on a brochure that will assist with fund raising and working with Ed Zumwalt to try to organize a luncheon for prospective funders.

Board comments included the following:

- The treatment plant removal seems to be on its own schedule and is not on our priority list (although members would love to see it gone)
- The McLoughlin widening project will be a catalyst for removing the remaining buildings on the Riverfront. Then we'll own the whole thing.
- The group reinforced their interest in an at-grade crossing of McLoughlin to facilitate pedestrian movement from downtown to the Riverfront.
- A potential crossing associated with the Kellogg Dam project was suggested.
- Parking is needed at the Boat ramp from February to April to accommodate anglers.
- It was noted that a walking loop around the City was an element of the original plan as was the highlighting of the various creeks we have throughout the downtown area.
- The group noted that they had conducted discussions with the Marine Board but that the Riverfront Board was unwilling to accept 20 year grant terms.
- The consultant stressed during plan development that if public funds were put forward, private funds would follow.

There was a discussion of tax increment financing and urban renewal for the Downtown area. The key, all agreed, is how to sell it. Herrigel noted that there had been an effort to do tax increment financing in the past and that it had been put on the ballot and defeated.

The group agreed that it would be a good to have a representative of the Waldorf school attend an upcoming meeting to discuss Riverfront projects that their kids might be involved in. Herrigel said she would invite Ed Parecki to the next meeting.

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Mitch noted that he hadn't been present when a vote was taken at the last meeting. With that modification, the minutes of the August 4 meeting were approved 7-0.

McLoughlin Advisory Group

The group agreed that Dave Green would represent them on the McLoughlin Advisory Committee. Wall noted that his time would be "valuably invested." The group asked if they might attend these meetings to observe. Herrigel said she would look into it.

The next meeting of the Riverfront Board was set for November 3 at 6 pm. Paul Verbout volunteered to buy dinner.

Verbout motioned to adjourn and Stacey seconded. Motion passed 7-0.