

Riverfront Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2008

Attendees: Gary Klein, Michael Martin, Shane St. Clair, Mitch Wall, Mike Stacey, Greg Seagler, Dave Green

Absent: None

Staff: JoAnn Herrigel

Guests: Councilor Susan Stone, Becky Ives (DLC)

Minutes: Green motioned to approve the minutes from the February 26 meeting, seconded by Stacey. Motion passed 7-0.

Theme development for Riverfront Park

There is some confusion about the plan for the riverfront being the actual design. The following is the tentative schedule:

Design

- 60% now
- 90% by July
- 100% by April 09

Permits

- 3 Local land use apps in now
- 4 Local land use to be submitted soon (May 08)
- Joint Permit Application April 08

Funding

- Oregon Parks and Rec Dept annual (750 k)
Application due April 4
- OMB biannual
Next cycle begins next year (2009)

Herrigel noted that at this stage in the design and approval process for the park it is time to determine what theme of the park will be. This will help DEA inform the final design, materials used for park elements and help staff field questions from regulators and the public alike. She noted that there are already a few memorials/commemorative plaques that the City has agreed to site in the park. She asked the group to discuss the following:

Who decides

- Memorial placement
- Theme
- Material

Who cares ?

Council

DLC

Public

Riverfront Board

Green – How much control does the board want to exercise over these elements of this project?

Stacey – What is the theme? Does there have to be one?

Green – Not as of now and it has moved along without one.

Stacey – I do not want to start making changes in the design – since we worked so hard to get where we are.

St.Clair – Having a theme would help tie the park together.

Seagler – How far along is the plan in regard to the restroom and grades?

Wall – How much leeway is council going to give the board?

Herrigel – I'm not aware of needing formal approval from Council but I'm sure they will want to be kept apprised of decisions being made.

Stone – Council does like to hear input from the board. City council is the final approval factor, so it may need council approval, but at least a presentation from the board would be appropriate. In regard to the theme, the board may want to think about "Milwaukie" meaning "meeting of the waters" in Native American culture

St.Clair – A river theme

Seagler – The downtown plan could be looked at to tie in the riverfront and would also like to see a native American element

St. Clair – Historical presentation would not be too difficult.

Klein – There was a calendar by First State Bank of Milwaukie with beautiful pictures of Milwaukie

Wall – Maybe take a look at the plants themselves

Klein – Get the big oak tree some notoriety

Wall – We're not talking about renaming the park?

Herrigel – No. The name is already chosen. It is Milwaukie Riverfront Park

Stacey – Have we gotten enough input from the public?

Klein – If it's opened to the public there may be sponsors

St. Clair – If there is a historical theme chosen, it would be easy to do. Maybe a natural history at the north end

Green – Ending with the log dump and industrial history

Martin – Are we going to try to get grants from Native American groups? Like Grand Ronde? If we are incorporating Native American history, we should ask Native American groups.

Wall – Perhaps there could be an actual timeline.

St. Clair – There is a need for this information because it doesn't exist anywhere else.

Green – Would like to bring the water into it somehow. Maybe connect the riverfront with the water

St. Clair – Any historical happenings with the people happened by river

Green – A river theme could also be connected with salmon and wildlife.

St. Clair – Are there any other parks that are linked to 3 waterways? Maybe that could be highlighted.

Stone – Isn't there history about the name being misspelled?

Green – How do we move that theme through the design process? How do we move it through the public? City Council?

St. Clair – One idea is to get a list with historical timeline and all other ideas, put them on the wall, and have everyone vote and take the best. Or divide them into groups and chose the best from each group

Green – Maybe engage the school in the research and other details

St. Clair – Maybe some sort of incentive, money, or a prize.

Wall – Is the Milwaukie Historical Society the place to go for historical information?

Herrigel – Yes, Madeline Bohl is the contact on Milwaukie history.

Martin – Could Madeline Bohl come and meet with the board?

Green – How do we move this theme forward? With what choices do we go out to the public? Is signage in the DEA contract?

Wall – Could a rep from the DEA come to a meeting?

Herrigel – Throwing these ideas out to the general public could be difficult.

Wall – It's best not to make a commitment to doing exactly what the public asks, but to get input from the public is important to make that final decision.

Stone – If you engage the public you need to follow up. If you limit these choices, someone may find historical flaws. If there is a workshop, with the timeline, it may be easier. But engaging the public is important.

Green – The design should be left up to the designers, but the concept could be open to comment at workshops. Don't ask the public what the theme should be, but let them know what's going on and get feedback.

Herrigel – Would you like to invite the DLC when Madelaine Bohl & Gill Willaims come?

Wall – It may be too early. Would like to have more solid ideas before meeting with the DLC.

Green – There are creative people out there who do the signage.

Herrigel – This may be a good project for a sponsor.

Martin – Oregon Historical society does this sort of work.

Green – We need to give constraints to people doing the historical work. Sponsors may have their own requests, so having a list of criteria will keep a focus.

Herrigel – Council has agreed to install a veteran's memorial. The Klein property needs a sign. Dismet marker needs to stay somewhere. There also needs to be a Portland Traction Line marker/commemorative plaque

St. Clair – Was the Traction line connected to river transportation in any way?

Herrigel – In short term, extend invitation to Milwaukie Historical Society and Gil

St. Clair – Before that, lets give some sort of constraints for them. Native American history, lumber, etc all needs to be tied into those 3 waterways

Klein – The name of Milwaukie could be the focus.

Seagler – There could be a sign crossing the road (a metal sign) that says Welcome To Milwaukie and include the meaning of the name.

Herrigel – At the next meeting we'll include the historical panel.

St. Clair – A question for the next meeting: What is our timeline to get this done?

Wall – Can the farmer's market be used to get input from people?

Green – The river and two creeks, is this what is proposed to potential sponsors?

St. Clair – For some of the smaller sponsors, definitely give stricter guidelines.

Green – The Rotary has expressed interest in assisting with installation of the gazebo near the log dump.

Green – There should be a meeting with reps from potential sponsors and people with vested interest apart from the meeting with general public. It would be good for building momentum and generating funding.

Herrigel – Anyone interested in the council meeting is welcome. We will be discussing the grant application to OPRD and the approval of the three land use apps Planning Commission approved last month. The meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday.

Martin – What about those river cruise groups?

Seagler – For discussion during next meeting, I attended a public meeting about Light Rail stations. There is the 45-day comment period, and the board may want to discuss the impact on the riverfront.

Green – Regarding letters of support for the grant application, I will write a draft for the board and send it off to rest of board for approval. Will send it out in the next couple days.

Herrigel – (asked Stacey) Are there any fish groups that could send a letter of support?

Stacey – Northwest Steelheaders possibly

Green – What about the Willamette River Keepers?

St. Clair – moved to adjourn at 7:30

Seconded by Green