

Riverfront Board Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2008

Attendees: Dave Green, Michael Martin, Shane St.Clair, Gary Klein

Absent: Greg Seagler, Mitch Wall, Mike Stacey

Staff: JoAnn Herrigel

Minutes: Green motioned to approve the minutes from the April 22nd meeting, seconded by Klein. Motion passed 4-0.

Green – The board received the Riffle Award from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council for the board's support of the council and the watershed. The group asked that the award be posted in the conference room of City Hall.

Theme development for Riverfront Park

Green – The main theme that came from the last meeting was the industrial history of the riverfront. There was a little discussion of cultural history. There was not much mention of history in regard to Native Americans.

St. Clair – Would like to move ahead with industrial history, but there may be groups that would know more about the cultural history.

Martin – There are areas in Oregon City and Sellwood that have Native American history.

St. Clair – Are there national funds to research the history? There may be grants available for this type of research.

Martin – There may be archeological testing when the riverfront park is done. This would turn up information about cultural history.

Klein – It would be great to have some signage regarding cultural history.

Martin – So what is the history of the name Elk Rock Island?

St. Clair – The story is that it came from the way Native Americans hunted elk by running them off of the cliff.

St. Clair – I understand that the Willamette River had a previous name, the Manning River.

Martin – The purpose of these themes is not for naming the riverfront, they're for information on the kiosks and such.

Green – Would you like to check with the Grand Ronde tribe regarding their knowledge of cultural history?

St. Clair – Some sort of correspondence, a letter, would be good. Just to inform them of the Board's interest in cultural history.

Martin – As part of the Joint permit to DSL and the Corps of Engineers there's a 30-day comment period during which tribes and others can comment. We might want to contact the Warm Springs tribes also.

Klein – It might be good to do this ahead of the 30 days, to show good will.

Herrigel – Suggested including Carlotta Collette or cc her on the letter. She has connections with Native American groups.

Klein – Should we go to council with this before we send out letters?

Herrigel – This process may take a while if you ask permission from city council. The agendas are full and by the time it goes to council, the 30-day comment period might be up. Council could be informed in a less formal way.

St. Clair – Asking city council may not be a necessary step because it's just a letter informing and requesting information.

Herrigel – Will keep council informed of what's happening.

Green – Are there any other comments on the theme? My comment is the connection of the 3 waterways.

St. Clair – We should emphasize all history related to water.

Klein – As far as the permitting process, are there other groups that may need to be contacted?

Herrigel – The joint application will include contacting permitting agencies walking the site. We are also still in touch with the Oregon Marine Board, ODOT, the sewage treatment plant, & the Oregon Parks and Recreation department regarding this project.

St. Clair – There are some businesses that might be interested in sponsoring some portion of the park, like Bob's Red Mill. For example, they may want to sponsor a kiosk relating to the historic grist mill.

Green – There have been requests by the historical society & rotary club to be involved. The Portland Traction Line commemoration might be a good project for

them to sponsor. Do we want to lock in this theme so that when these groups approach the board there is an official response on where to start?

St. Clair – They need to work within the theme, work within the design, and fund the project.

Green – A sponsor will need to pick an element already in the design and fund that, not add on new structures or elements.

St. Clair – These are all naming opportunities. There should be a list of these projects and cost estimates that potential sponsors could choose from.

Project Updates

Herrigel – The June 3rd council meeting will be discussing Light Rail station locations. Staff has recommended specific locations. There have been two public meetings on this subject and there was no general consensus by the public. The reason I'm bringing this to the board's attention is because there has been interest by the board in the past and I would like to invite members to the Council meeting.

Green – I don't think that the board needs to necessarily take a position on the stations as long as there is a stop somewhere in Milwaukie that provides access to the park. Otherwise, light rail does not directly impact the park.

Herrigel – The OPRD grant presentation will be in Redmond. We submitted the grant request for \$450,000. OPRD replied asking for clarification and we sent what they were asking for. We have been warned that this grant was not very competitive. The board is invited to attend this presentation to help support the grant. Question to the board is what would wow the review committee. Staff suggested photo or video. The presentation only allows 20 minutes and 10 minutes of that is Q&A. Any input is welcome.

St. Clair – Suggested a big picture with lots of people at the waterfront. Certainly have vision of park and steps to get to that vision. Build on the fact that this is the first visible step toward the park.

Herrigel – Talked to Gil Williams about the joint application. Two of the land use applications we are required to submit were not in the original DEA scope of work. We are working on expanding the scope and moving the applications forward. Will try to submit before July 1. She also met with the Oregon Marine Board. Andy Jansky, of the DEA team accompanied her. They were interested in the current status of the park.

Herrigel – Met with PGE regarding utility pole movement at the Riverfront. To put the poles underground would be 1 million dollars to start, so the alternative would

be to move the poles up toward the sidewalk. PGE is working on generating an estimate for this. There are 7 or 8 of the poles that have to be moved.

St Clair – Did that discussion with OMB include launch ramp?

Herrigel – They build ramps, docks and parking lots, but no storm water or vegetation etc. There's a big discussion going on between DEA and the City planning department regarding where we can use pavers or asphalt.

St. Clair motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Martin. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.