

## MINUTES

### HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 13, 1990

Committee members present: Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman, Lorna Stickel, Carolyn Wood, Dave Jensen, Dave Powers, John Lundell, Jack Mills. Wayne Cobine substituted for Don Adams.

Committee members absent: Julie Curtis, Max Ruff.

Staff present: Jeanette Kloos, Janis Collins, Chet Anderson, Ken Allmer, Richard Fix.

Guests: Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; John Yeon; Stephe Kenney Jr.; Larry Cronenwett and Mike Abbate, US Forest Service; Brian Litt, Columbia River Gorge Commission.

The minutes for the last meeting were corrected with a new first page, and approved.

During the public comment period Lorna Stickel asked John Yeon about his thoughts on the Ainsworth/Dodson/Warrendale area. He clarified his ideas by stating that any development should be public, not commercial. Multnomah County is looking at a potential recreation site at Ainsworth. Lorna Stickel stated that when she had asked the Forest Service National Scenic Area people if they would investigate an adjacent area, she was told they were not interested. Multnomah County has written to the Forest Service requesting a joint investigation of the area, including the County, the Gorge Commission and the Forest Service. Jeanette Kloos said that ODOT is also interested in such an investigation, especially if public restrooms and parking for a potential shuttle would be included. Lorna Stickel requested that ODOT also encourage a joint study. The CAC agreed that they would want to be involved.

Two development reviews were discussed. By unanimous vote the CAC agreed that comments should be sent to the Gorge Commission on the Wilde proposal in Rowena. The comments should include agreement on one existing access to the HCRH, no objections to maintenance as residential area and need for a site plan including landscaping. Similar comments need to be sent on the Nickerson proposal at Littlepage Road near Corbett.

The CAC discussed the Coopey Falls appeal. The CAC recommended that Highway Division or Parks Division intervene in the appeal, so that options will be kept open. Lorna Stickel abstained from the vote, which was otherwise unanimous.

## **75th Anniversary Celebration**

The CAC and guests participated in a brainstorming session on the 75th Anniversary of the Dedication of the HCRH. Many great ideas were mentioned and all are included on the attached summary. Lewis L. McArthur suggested that the CAC form subcommittees to investigate different subjects. Wayne Cobine agreed to investigate the timing of the celebration, including selection of a date(s) that would not conflict with major Rose Festival events such as the parade and selection of a time of day. Carolyn Wood and John Lundell will discuss the type of activities that should be included and make contact with groups, such as antique car clubs, that might participate. Dave Powers and Lewis L. McArthur will investigate sponsors, both media and corporate. Lewis McArthur will ask Julie Curtis to investigate the possibility of pro bono publicity. The need for finance and public involvement committees was also discussed. Janis Collins agreed to help with media sponsors and publicity. The CAC will narrow down the ideas at the next meeting. Each subcommittee was asked to send a summary of their activities to Jeanette Kloos in 30 days, for distribution to the CAC before the next meeting.

Several CAC members will also look for descendants. Jeanette Kloos will research the Senate Hearing records.

## **Five (Seven) Year Work Program**

Jeanette Kloos explained that the work program was requested by the Transportation Commission as a plan to accomplish the restoration work within a reasonable time period. Work on the HCRH will require cooperation of (and funding from) several agencies including Highway Division, Parks Department, Forest Service and National Scenic Area.

Jeanette Kloos asked the committee if the estimates included in the proposed plan should include replacement of only the existing rail or placement of rail to current standards. Lewis McArthur said that the existing rail closely parallels that included in the 1924 log. Wayne Cobine moved that the CAC recommend that existing runs of rail be replaced. If ODOT wants to place additional rail, individual locations would be reviewed by the CAC. This motion passed unanimously. Wayne Cobine agreed to look at the 1924 log and estimate the amount of guard rail that will be needed.

Lewis McArthur emphasized that private volunteers should be included in the work plan. He has ideas on several potential people and projects that could be accomplished. He will print those ideas and ask for other CAC members to add their suggestions (copy attached). This will be discussed at the next CAC meeting.

Jack Mills said that the Multnomah County offenders crew stationed in Wyeth was looking for work. The Leader is Jon Stewart, with the Columbia Gorge Ranger District. Jack Mills thought that their services were free. A Forest Service representative said that the cost was \$290/day for 10 people, transportation and supervisor. He also thought that they were booked for the next year. Jeanette Kloos will check this out.

To effectively use this crew, or other volunteers we need a list of projects that need only labor, with specific descriptions of work to be accomplished. The CAC agreed that the first priority would be cleaning the pavement east of the gate at Hood River. This side has the advantage that it is closed to traffic.

### **Activity Reports**

Chet Anderson introduced his replacement, Ken Allmer. He stated that the couch and other debris below Memaloose Overlook have been removed.

Wayne Cobine said that a rock crew will be working near Vista House. Intermittent paving will be accomplished on Crown Point Highway this summer. Crews have been replacing guard stones; this work will continue. The two-rail guard rail will be crash tested in a computer simulation next week; the actual crash test is scheduled for early August.

Wayne Cobine stated that the first single, wooded rail project is under contract. The cost was estimated at \$27/linear foot; the bid was \$35/linear foot; with mobilization included the total cost was \$56/linear foot.

The new Region 1 Parks Supervisor will be John (Jack) Wiles, from Alaska.

Brian Litt asked for the CAC member's comments on his site descriptions for the trailhead and picnic area on the east side of the Mosier Tunnels. Lorna Stickel asked if the trailhead was large enough, since the demand may be greater from Mosier to the tunnels, because of the shorter distance. Brian Litt said that the current Recreation Intensity Zone would only allow a maximum 20 car parking area. Several people asked if the main parking should be within the Mosier Urban Area, perhaps at the Highway Division gravel pit or at the proposed Mosier Waterfront development. Carolyn Wood, Jack Mills, John Lundell and Brian Litt agreed to meet at the site to discuss this. Staff from State Parks and Highway Division will also be invited.

Brian Litt mentioned that the Gorge Commission will discuss the Landscape Setting policy paper at their June 25 meeting. Brian Litt also summarized the recently adopted Recreation policies (attached).

### **Other Issues**

Richard Fix, Highway Division bridge crew, described his proposal to build two turnout areas, recreating the observatories at Eagle's Nest, Eagle Creek and Rowena. The areas are between Larch Mountain Road and Vista House. They are used now and become muddy during the rainy season. People use the areas both for viewpoints and as dump sites. There is no evidence that any walls existed at these particular locations before. A discussion then began of the policy question of creating something that looks similar to the historic features that can not be documented as an original feature. Dwight Smith, by memo, had expressed his opinion that the project, if constructed, should not mimic the old, but should be compatible and distinguishable as new. The CAC did not reach a decision and agreed to discuss the policy issue further at the next meeting. Wayne Cobine also will develop a cost estimate for the project.

Dave Powers announced his resignation from the State Historic Preservation Office. This was also Jack Mills last official meeting. Both Dave Powers and Jack Mills were presented with certificates of appreciation for serving on the CAC.

The CAC discussed the Multnomah Falls Site Plan and a summary of John Yeon's comments on the plan to the Steering Committee guiding that planning effort. One additional comment that was not expressed at the last meeting came from Dave Powers: old photos show guard stones separating the HCRH from the pedestrian area in front of the Lodge. The Forest Service may wish to consider this information when designing proposed separation of the HCRH from the parking areas.

Written delegation of authority to the Scenic Area Coordinator and the Chairman is in progress.

Lewis L. McArthur asked the CAC if he could ask Jane Cease (or other legislators) if they would pass a resolution stating that it is state policy to reacquire all portions of the original right-of-way of the HCRH not currently in public ownership. No new authority to condemn would be requested. The resolution could include a statement that condemnation would only be used as a last resort. The CAC agreed that McArthur could pursue this possibility.

The next CAC meeting will be July 25, in Hood River.

Attachments: 75th Anniversary Celebration Ideas  
McArthur's Ideas for Projects along Abandoned Sections  
Recreation Policies Summary

## Ideas for 75th Anniversary Celebration

Use Highway - linear activity - race or just for fun

- Antique car rally

- Run

- Bikes

- Experimental vehicles

- Motorcycles

- Shuttle with open top vehicles and narration

Recreate original dedication

- Multnomah Falls

- Crown Point

- Mayerdale

Dedicate something new

- A new park

- Completed restoration work

  - Rowena Crest

  - Starvation Creek to Viento

  - Mitchell Point

  - Rock work

Tie in with existing activities

- Rose Festival

- Friends of the Gorge Hiking Weekend

- Sternwheeler Days - Cascade Locks

- Troutdale Historical Society Ice Cream Social

Use work parties

Make old pictures available

- postcard - reprint old collection

- Poster

- OHS exhibit

- Opera singer

- UP Excursion train

- Make 1916 Ford and/or Singing Waters (1931) film available to TV

- Produce special - Nancy Webber

- Involve descendants of those who worked on the HCRH

- Create a land trust

- Educate people to preserve for next 75 years

- Charter buses with narration

- celebrate transportation

- one-way or closure

- Emphasize Benson connection

- Seek sponsors -

Purpose of celebration

- Educate people on need to preserve HCRH
- Involve lots of people
- Get national publicity for HCRH
- Accelerate restoration

Need to create committees

- Financing
- Timing
- Activities
- Public involvement of adjacent residents
- Road closure - where, when, who involved
- liability