

MINUTES
Historic Columbia River Highway
Advisory Committee
September 17, 1998
Best Western Inn
Cascade Locks, Oregon

Members Present: Bill Pattison, Sally Donovan, James Hamrick, John Lundell, and Janice Newton, Jeffery Plummer, Jack Wiles, and Carolyn Wood.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Kevin Bracy, Robert Hadlow, Danyeil Robertson, Gail Smith and Sam Wilkins.

Public Present: Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; David Sell, FHWA; Mike Bridges, City of Cascade Locks; and Mike Stoval.

A field trip, which included a hike, from Tanner Creek to Moffett Creek and Eagle Creek to Cascade Locks was taken before the regularly scheduled meeting to view progress on these projects.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

Bill Pattison introduced Sally Donovan, the newest member of the AC, who was appointed by Governor Kitzhaber. Sally Donovan will represent Hood River County. Sally informed the AC that she has had her own consulting business for the last 10 years working in Historic Preservation. Sally has worked on the Oregon Pioneer Cemetery and Museum and was very pleased to be on the committee.

PROCESS FOR CONSENSUS ON HCRH IN URBAN AREAS

Sam Imperati will lead the process. He will send information explaining his background and the draft process.

The information will be sent out to the parties involved, Cascade Locks, City of Hood River, Mosier, ODOT, HCRH AC and the State Historical Preservation Office. The proposed process and comments has been modified to have one large meeting with all parties involved and then meet with each group individually later. The process will take several months and the first meeting will probably be scheduled by the end of October. Letters will go out by the beginning of next week. Mr. Imperati will interview all parties to assess the situation before the first meeting.

James Hamrick reported that Cascade Locks submitted its city comprehensive plan and made no reference to the HCRH being a district on The National Register of Historic Places. James is keeping track of the plan. The plan did not include any protection of the HCRH, as required by Goal 5.

Cascade Locks is also in the process of letting a bid to pave and construct gutters on Forest Lane. The city was asked to delay the project but is proceeding. Paving season is almost over, so the work will probably not occur until spring.

NEW CASINO/ CONFEDERATED TRIBES

Jeanette reported that a new article in the Hood River News gave a different slant on the possible construction of a new casino being proposed by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. A previous article written in The Oregonian placed the location along the HCRH above the Hanel Quarry or the East Pit, on lands held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. However, the article in the Hood River News stated that the primary location is at the west end of Hood River across I-84 from the Columbia Gorge Hotel (see attachments). If this were the selected location, there would need to be some changes in the Country Club Road intersection with the HCRH. Bill Pattison asked if there was any possibility of a property exchange with the Confederated Tribes and the process of acquiring an exchange of properties. Robert Hadlow asked if the trust lands were sold now, would they fall under the Scenic Area Act.

The local public reaction is very negative regarding the casino. Janice Newton suggested that an invitation be sent to the Tribes requesting a presentation on their plans. Jack Wiles felt that the process will be a long one and that it may be better to wait and see how the process goes.

Bill Pattison suggested a letter of introduction be sent to the Tribes to let them know about the AC and how the casino plans may effect the HCRH. The AC agreed.

PROJECT UPDATES

HOOD RIVER TO MOSIER UPDATE

PHASE 1

A pre-construction conference is being held today, September 17, regarding the Mosier waterline extension. They have a short deadline. The waterline will be installed along the bottom of the Rock Creek Bridge.

Mosier Trailhead ADA Accessibility is waiting to be reviewed by Wasco County. This is the last step before project can be started. Construction may be delayed until next year, because paving season is almost over.

PHASE 2

Nancy Russell has talked with Senator Mark Hatfield, who would like to see some pictures of the project.

The talus slope above the tunnel has caused some problems due to rock falling. The contractor has done some scaling work to help with this problem. The first two columns on the left of the tunnel have been completed.

PHASE 3C

The West Trailhead parking is paved and the curbs are in for the landscaping. The landscape will be done when the rainy season arrives. The kiosk is installed and a bicycle rack will be installed later. Grand opening dedication has been postponed until Phase 2 and 3 are complete sometime next summer. A fee machine will be installed when the shelter is complete. The shelter will match the kiosk. The rockwork and grading is completed. The gate pillars at the main entrance are finished and the gate to George Quarry is installed. KBFF is overdue for the septic system design. The fence at the overlook, east of the tunnel, is complete.

YOUNG'S EXPLOSIVES

Dave Wright, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, is in the process of acquiring the Young site. Once that process has been completed the site should be vacated within six months.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications were submitted for National Scenic Byway and Public Lands Highway Discretionary funds (see attached chart).

MOFFET CREEK - TANNER CREEK

This project was included in the field trip earlier in the day. Carolyn asked where the fence would be installed in relation to the geo web wall? The fence will be placed on top to keep anyone from falling over the edge. Will there be plantings in the geo web to hide the webbing? Yes. The contractor has proposed to change plantings. Some of the plantings suggested are big leaf maple, vine maple, stink current, etc.

Access will remain a dead-end until the Warrendale to Moffett Creek project is completed.

EAGLE CREEK - CASCADE LOCKS

This project was also included in the field trip earlier in the day. The project will be completed by the end of October. Cascade Locks, Port of Cascade Locks, FHWA, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the HCRH AC will be involved in the grand opening of this project in the spring.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

Kevin Bracy reported that Coral Construction has received the signs. When they went to pick up the posts for installing the signs, they were cracked and not acceptable. New ones are being made. Four hundred dollars a day is being paid in liquidated damages beyond the contract deadline of August 31. There is only one pre-cast form available to make 27 signposts. The contractor is considering whether to spend the money and make more forms, so they can complete the job more quickly.

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

Robert Hadlow reported that the nomination was submitted the end of June. The committee reviewing the nominations has asked for a delay in consideration of the HCRH until the spring meeting. Additional information has been requested for the Hood River-Mosier section, the Warrendale-Cascade Locks section and Cascade Locks to Hood River section of the HCRH. Robert will be sending more photos of these sections so that the NHL program staff may learn more about these road segments, level of integrity.

TOOTHROCK TUNNEL LIGHTING

The preliminary plans for this project are completed. The advance plans will be completed next month. The current lighting system in the tunnel is failing. Robert Hadlow is writing reports regarding the cultural and visual impacts of the lighting system. There will be day and night systems when the new system is installed. The service cabinets for the system will be set back along the HCRH State Trail and landscaping will screen the boxes. The electric line will be underground from the Acton substation to the service cabinets. The entry lantern by the tunnel will be lighted. Two light poles (one at each end) near the tunnel will be removed. The remaining luminare poles will be replaced with new poles painted brown to blend in with the background. The "ICE" sign will be replaced.

Jack asked about the bicycle signage. Jeanette stated that signs reading narrow tunnel and alternate route are in place at this time.

The bid opening for this project is scheduled the end of January, with construction beginning next summer. Mike Bridges, City Administrator of Cascade Locks, agreed that underground utilities are a good idea.

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORTS:

ODOT

Sam Wilkins, District 9, reported that there is not much happening in Region 4 at this time. There was a severe fire east of Rowena. The vegetation in the area of the fire is gone, which is causing rocks to fall down on the highway. Sam is having his crew check on the highway every morning to clear the rocks.

Carolyn Wood reported that there was great cooperation during the fire

OPRD

Jack Wiles reported that OPRD has submitted CRGNSA recreation grant proposals. One of the proposals is the viewpoint at Mosier Twin Tunnels. If the grant is approved by the CRGNSA committee it will be submitted for construction for the FY2000-2001 Federal budget. Jack suggested that a support letter from the HCRH AC would be appreciated when needed.

Another grant was submitted for the SIMM's funding for a Trail Map of the HCRH and State Trail trailheads. It will be three weeks before we know if this is approved.

A Challenge grant has been received for \$100,000 to replace the windows at Vista House. A match is needed for this grant.

Diane McClay reported that the Mosier Labor Day Festival was a great success. Gay Jervey said there were more than 300 people in attendance. Diane reported that several hikes were taken to the Mosier Twin Tunnels.

FOREST SERVICE

Jeanette Kloos reported that Tom Turck received approval for dredging Multnomah Creek and that project has been completed. The handicap accessible area at Multnomah Falls was washed out during the winter and will be repaved.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS:

Jeanette reviewed with the AC a chart listing the development reviews that she had received since the last meeting. The due dates for comments had past.

A home near Tad's Chicken & Dumplings restaurant is requesting to be allowed to rebuild. The flood damaged the property. The existing structure is very close to the HCRH pavement.

James received an archeological mitigation plan from Multnomah County regarding structures in Bridal Veil.

MEMBERS ISSUES:

Jeffery Plummer stated that the new overpass screen at Chenoweth Interchange looked good. The fish will be attached to the screen before the grand opening around October 22.

Janice Newton asked about the current status on the Mosier gravel pit. Sam Wilkins answered that the matter is before LUBA and oral discussions began last week.

Jack asked Nancy Russell if she could help with the Challenge grant he is working on for the Vista House. Jack also asked for Jerry Lairson's phone number, to check whether the landscaping at the Toothrock Trailhead is still under warranty (there are several dead trees).

James Hamrick told the AC that the Task Force he is working on for Governor Kitzhaber would end in October. They will be meeting in Newport next Thursday covering vision and policy priorities. There will be competition for funds. The task force appears more art centered than cultural resource centered

Julie Curtis is working half time until next July for OPRD and Heritage Commission.

Nancy Russell attended Senator Ted Ferrioli's meeting in The Dalles. Carolyn Wood and John Lundell were planning to attend but they were not able to make it. Nancy reported that the meeting was very negative regarding the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The nature of the meeting and comments made by those in attendance could provide a "record" that could be used by those trying to weaken or eliminate the CRGCNSA and the many old issues (back to construction of I-84) were brought up.

John Lundell thanked Jeanette for her quick response with information on the new casino.

Bill Pattison asked about the mustard color paint used at the fish hatchery. He stated that he would like to see a better coordination, so that in the future a color that blends in more with the natural surroundings would be used.

The House sub-committee on Transportation, including Representative Montgomery, will be having hearings at the Discovery Center, September 21 in the afternoon and September 22 in the morning.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION:

Thursday, November 5 at the Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles.

Attachments:

Casino Articles (3)

Grant Proposal

Developmental Review Chart

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