

Willamette Falls

◦ LEGACY PROJECT ◦

PARTNERS GROUP MEETING MINUTES

July 11th, 2016

*Museum of the Oregon Territory, Tumwater Room
211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045*

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Partner Attendees

Oregon City: Mayor Dan Holladay, Interim City Manager Wyatt Parno (on behalf of Tony Konkol)
Metro: Council President Tom Hughes, Councilor Carlotta Collette, Martha Bennett
County: Commissioner Tootie Smith, Commissioner Martha Schrader, Don Krupp
State: Sen. Alan Olsen, Bobby Lee, MG Devereux, Chris Didway (on behalf of Rep. Barton)

Project Update

Kathleen Brennan-Hunter called the meeting to order at 10:08am and facilitated introductions around the table. Councilor Collette reported that Metro, in partnership with Oregon City and Clackamas County, received a \$600,000 EPA brownfield assessment grant for the McLoughlin Corridor. Kathleen provided the Partners with a few more project updates, noted below:

- The Rediscover the Falls friends group selected and seated a board of directors, along with hiring Kris Anderson as the interim executive director.
- The Partners will vote today on Councilor Collette serving as the Partners group liaison to Rediscover the Falls.

ACTION:

Mayor Dan Holladay made a motion to appoint Councilor Carlotta Collette as the Partners group liaison to Rediscover the Falls. Commissioner Tootie Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Oregon Consensus is beginning their work on assessing riverwalk ownership options. Partners should expect to be interviewed in the next couple weeks. Staff expects to have some preliminary results in September.
- Wyatt Parno gave a brief update on the project's budget oversight committee, which has representatives from all four partner agencies. They will serve as the group to provide budget reports to the Partners and are currently working on a reporting format.

Development Strategy Update

Gary Barth gave a brief update on the development strategy, reminding the Partners of the financial contributions from each party, the commitment to integration with the riverwalk milestones and schedule and what the project will ultimately accomplish. Gary articulated that the public is working collaboratively with Falls Legacy, LLC on the development strategy. Mayor Holladay commended the approach of partnership on the development strategy project.

Riverwalk Update

Alex Perove introduced herself as the project manager for the Riverwalk project. She gave a brief summary of the March community open house, highlighting the overwhelming attendance numbers and positive response from the public. These responses will help to inform the ongoing design process.

Carol Mayor-Reed gave a presentation on the riverwalk design process to date, highlighting the eight program elements developed for the riverwalk and key summer dates for the project. Important highlights of the ensuing conversation are below:

- Commissioner Schrader mentioned how the site needs to be designed through narrative, story and place. She articulated her appreciation of the design team's approach.
- Councilor Collette inquired about how the program will be handled for the entire site, not just the riverwalk. Carol Mayor-Reed responded that the design team is looking at all options for programming across the site.
- The Partners felt comfortable moving forward with the eight program drivers presented.

Mayor Holladay reported to the group that Commissioner Carol Pauli has resigned as an Oregon City Council member due to her moving out of the area. Mayor Holladay has assigned Commissioner Renate Mengelberg to sit on the Willamette Falls Legacy Project Partners group.

Whitewater Park Work Session

Noah Siegel introduced himself and noted that written public comment will be accepted for the next two weeks and should be sent to Kelly Reid (kelly.reid@oregonmetro.gov). Noah laid out the evaluation considerations with the Partners and walked through the three options to take the whitewater park proposal forward. He concluded that this conversation will frame up the decision at next month's Partners meeting.

Important highlights from the conversation are below:

- For the August meeting, Martha Bennett asked for an approximate cost estimate of including the Whitewater Park in the design process; Noah answered that with the short timeline, only a range could be provided for how much more money it would cost. This number will be provided at the August meeting.
- Commissioner Smith expressed her desire to not delay the design process. She articulated that she did not think this is a project that should use public money; she believes it should be a private development. She did voice support for the idea, just not at this location.
- Commissioner Schrader voiced her support for the idea but suggested there might be a better location to site it.
- Commissioner Smith also voiced her concern about the type of jobs that a whitewater park would bring in relation to the types of jobs envisioned on the site.
- Senator Olsen voiced his concerns about the business viability of the proposal. He noted that if the project gets built and fails, it could possibly have repercussions for the entire site.
- Council President Hughes articulated that escalating costs will ultimately delay the design and construction of the project. He also voiced that the business viability and financial feasibility of the project needs to be answered by the whitewater proponents.
- Councilor Collette articulated her concern about the whitewater proposal becoming larger than the riverwalk project itself. She also voiced concern around competing for resources.

- Mayor Holladay reported that this topic was discussed at the most recent Oregon City commission work session. He said that the Oregon City commission supports the third option of incorporating kayaking activities and elements into the riverwalk design, rather than an Olympic-level park.
- Don Krupp wanted to get a better understanding of the property owner's commitment to the project; Noah answered that the property owner supports the idea but has yet to contribute any resources to it.
- Some Partners expressed interest on voting on the issue at the meeting but staff recommended moving forward with the process that was laid out. Some Partners expressed concern that staff time will be used to conduct more research before the next meeting rather than work on the riverwalk project. Noah noted that staff could refrain from conducting research on all the elements mentioned in the matrix if the partners don't need it to make a decision.
- The Partners agreed make a decision at the next meeting in August, following the public comment period and allowing time for each partner agency to discuss it among their councils and commissions, if desired.

Noah concluded the conversation, noting that staff will gather existing information but will not conduct extensive research on the issue. This information will be presented at the August meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.