

Willamette Falls

◦ LEGACY PROJECT ◦

PARTNERS GROUP MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2016

Oregon City Public Library

606 John Adams St, Oregon City, OR 97045

12:30 - 2 p.m.

Partner Attendees

Oregon City: Mayor Dan Holladay, City Manager Tony Konkol
Metro: Councilor Carlotta Collette, COO Martha Bennett
County: Gary Barth (*for County Administrator Don Krupp*)
State: Jennifer Donnelly (*for Regional Solutions Metro Region Coordinator Bobby Lee*),
Representative Brent Barton

Missing: Senator Alan Olsen, Commissioner Renate Mengelberg, Metro Council President Tom Hughes, Commissioner Tootie Smith, Commissioner Martha Schrader, State Parks Deputy Director M.G. Devereux,

Special Guests: Michelle Delk/Snøhetta, Brian Moore & Kathleen Brennan-Hunter/Metro

The meeting was called to order by meeting chair, Mayor Dan Holladay at 12:35 p.m.

Mayor Holladay opened the meeting with introductions of the partners and all observers.

General Updates (12:39 p.m.)

- Kathleen Brennan-Hunter said farewell, as she will be leaving Metro to work with the Nature Conservancy on November 22.
- Brian Moore, the Willamette Falls Project Manager who began working with Metro in mid-October, introduced himself.
- Councilor Collette expressed gratitude for the service of Commissioner Smith and Representative Barton.

Councilor Collette provided updates on the WFLP Friends Group, Rediscover the Falls. (12:44 p.m.)

- RTF has achieved tax-exempt status.
- A Strategic Planning Retreat took place in October. Shelly Parini, Chair of the RTF Board described the goals of the session.
 - The group focused on team-building and goal alignment as well as outlining shared resources.
 - RTF will unveil its Mission statement soon.

- RTF plans to take on the role of the fundraising and friend “arm” of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project.
- All RTF efforts are done through the lens of the project’s Core Values.
- Three priorities were defined to lead the group through 2020.
 - Ensure the operation is fully staffed.
 - Create a robust and strong community involvement plan.
 - Fundraise for WFLP.
- The group plans to hit the ground running in January 2017 to determine the focus of philanthropic efforts and community engagement. RTF is determining how to keep community engagement up while the project is in the “silent phase.”

Brian Moore provided an update on discussions of operations and management, as well as future site ownership. (12:48 p.m.)

- Conversations have taken place through an interview process facilitated through Oregon Consensus.
 - Representatives of stakeholder groups with a potential interest in aspects of riverwalk ownership, operations and management were approached and interviewed.
 - Interviewees included Clackamas County, Metro, Oregon City, Oregon state parks, Metro Regional Solutions (state), multiple tribes, PGE, and the National Parks Service.
 - The study identified a need for a governance model and a decision on leadership regarding O&M as well as hesitation by most parties to commit to ownership or operations responsibilities prior to finalization of design plans.
 - Once preferred design is determined and core areas and pieces of infrastructure are identified, operations and management needs will be clarified.
 - The Rediscover the Falls friends group can also be instrumental in fundraising to assist with O&M.

Brian Moore provided an update on the development strategy process and discussions between the private and public partnership components of the project. (12:57 p.m.)

- A letter was sent to the owner requesting renegotiation of timing for redevelopment.
 - Owner is not fully prepared to move forward with his portion on same schedule as riverwalk. Thus, a separation of timelines is being requested.
 - Owner has been requested to sign and return letter indicating understanding and separation of riverwalk and development timelines.
 - Separation will allow Falls Legacy to make progress at their own pace and keep riverwalk project on current projected design deadlines.
 - The goal is to continue and preserve a positive relationship and partnership with the private owner, and a follow up meeting between Brian and Falls Legacy will occur within a week or two.

A representative of the design team, Michelle Delk of Snøhetta, presented conceptual design directions of the riverwalk project as a preview of materials to be shown to the public at the Community Event scheduled on November 17. (1 p.m.)

Discussion:

- The group discussed concerns over circulation and access during construction phases, and identified this as an issue to keep under consideration.

- Demolition, construction phasing, and exact areas of habitat restoration are still unknowns, and there is a strong need for a big-picture framework for phasing and the definition of what Phase I will actually entail.
- Partners expressed concern regarding ongoing safety and security of the site during construction and demolition phases, wondering how to ensure people cannot access areas that are still in progress and may be unsafe.
- The design team acknowledged that phase I may include some interim/impermanent features and areas that could be relocated or repurposed as development continues.
- The group discussed the idea that potential donors could be drawn to supporting or sponsoring events and activities at the site, which could support public spaces, amenities, upkeep of natural areas, etc.
- Representative Barton theorized that the project may benefit from the potential focus on shovel-ready projects under the President-elect's proposed infrastructure plan, and offered that this may be a funding possibility worth exploring, as federal funding since 2010 has been sparse.
- The group noted that upcoming meeting topics will include budgeting for 2017-2019 and a renewal or update of the IGA, as well as discussion of the preferred design.

ACTION:

- **Partners will meet in spring to discuss the preferred design alternative for the riverwalk.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 P.M.