

OSN Steering Committee Meeting Jan. 6, 2010

Minutes

Present: Brooke Dubois, Adam Fyall, Sharon Grant, Bill King, George Last, Mike Lilga, Ferdouse Oneza, Tom Page, Len Pavelka, Doug Strong, Rick White, Scott Woodward, Debbie Berkowitz

1. News: We're still waiting for the 501(c)3 designation from the IRS. The grant application to Three Rivers Foundation was turned down.
2. Brooke introduced Dr. Kate Perry who's the new head of the Health Alliance.
3. Logo (Sharon). We have the logo design and colors. The words "preserve, promote, enjoy" are included in lower case. We also have the logo as letterhead. Sharon asked Donna to try the "preserve, promote, enjoy" in a larger font size. Once this is set, the webpage on the TGA website will include the logo. We'd like this to be done in time for the JC meeting.
4. JC (Scott). The JC packet is ready to go. Mike has worked on Chapters 1 & 2 to be able to give them to the JC. The first JC meeting will be on Fri., Jan. 29 from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Bechtel Room at TCVCB. Mike will do an introduction; Scott will provide him with some visuals. Then Scott will discuss our progress and then either Scott or Tom will talk about the JC role. We'll ask for comments and discussion by the JC on Chapters 1 & 2. Then Scott and Mike will discuss maps. Scott will get a hardcopy packet out to the JC members (introduction to JC, job description with graph, agenda, executive summary, chapters 1 & 2). All steering committee members are encouraged to attend. Staff is planning to attend. We're asking the JC members to comment on chapters 1 & 2. We have slides that have visuals from 1996 and 2006, top and bottom. Sharon commented that FOBM stayed focused on what we wanted, not on what we didn't want. We should make them feel excited about the possibilities. Sam Volpentest wrote a letter on behalf of FOBM that said we need these kinds of visions for economic success here. There will be growth, better ways to do growth, less desirable ways. This is a good time to prepare for the next wave of growth – and we need to do it now. This document fills a niche among the planning documents in the Tri-Cities that hasn't been done before, created by volunteers. Len suggested that this concept needs to be brought up to the JC. This kind of planning has been done by other jurisdictions, but not in our area, and is filling an empty niche. There hasn't been OS planning for the Mid-Columbia region before this; this is an attempt to bring an organized comprehensive look at what has been done and what needs to be done. Mike will include this in his introduction.
5. Chapters 1 & 2 (Mike). These are high priority because we'll be discussing these at the JC meeting. Mike beefed up the introduction, trying to define our plan area. East and West boundaries are harder to define; do we do that based on our project recommendations? Link to already existing landmarks. East may be the Palouse River. We don't have boundaries, so this should give people a feel for what we're talking about. South – to Patterson NWR, but people might not know this, so Columbia River is better. We don't want to say that a particular area is in or outside the boundaries. We could tie it to rivers and ridges – Horse Heaven Hills to west and south. Northern boundary of the Reach – people have an idea where that is, not exact boundary. Could we put a map in? But a map will be in Chapter 3 (existing OS). We have 3 general maps – Benton, Franklin counties and major publicly owned lands in Benton and Franklin counties (federal, state, county, city – all same color). Would there be any value in differentiating federal and state lands? There are some publicly owned lands that are intended to be sold to support state schools, so these are not permanent OS. How do we separate out trust lands? This might be a more useful distinction, but could be difficult to do. A map might be more useful than words. We have only Benton and Franklin counties on our JC – why would we want to include more than that? Should we have a broader map, with Benton and Franklin counties within that and a shaded area that shows our planning area? Scott indicated that we do have that, but there are logistical issues to making it too broad. We wouldn't be able to see the priority preservation areas. Let's look at Scott's maps later today and see if we have a broad enough map. Saddle Mountains and the Hanford Reach National Monument on the north to Columbia River on the south; from

- Palouse River on the east (confluence of Palouse, Snake, and Columbia Rivers) to the Rattlesnake Ridges and Horse Heaven Hills on the west.
6. Chapter 1. Urban Greenspace/Park Lands. Do we want to include the term “RV Parks”? Do we want to include special use parks? “Special use parks” include parks such as ORV parks, dog parks. Some areas are preserved but don’t have public access – but still have the viewscape and the ecological value. DOS and NOS provide different opportunities. DOS provides sports fields and more intense usage. Taken together, both types are important. We’re here to preserve the NOS. The linkages are important, too. Acres/population is useful for DOS, but not for NOS. The definition of OS is in the introduction and Mike will revise to point this out as our proposed definition – “OS may consist of: shrub-steppe lands.....” Another possible definition - Any land that has been set aside for the purpose of remaining undeveloped. OS would need to be categorized according to type – different usages depending on the type of OS. We need to incorporate the difference between vacant land and OS? The types of OS will be listed and defined. Mike is including the population information from the TCH article this week. As the population increases, it makes sense to re-build in the inner city areas, but it’s more expensive for developers and requires incentives.
 7. Chapter 5. Recommendation 10.3 and 11 – combined. Bill wrote up Recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 to direct development to the UGA and to provide incentives for in-fill developments. Len asked if we define “Smart Growth.” Instead of “smart growth” we should say, “thoughtful urban development processes.” **George and Len** will send comments to Mike.
 8. Chapter 2. Mike added some wildlife benefits. He’ll define “ecosystem services.” He also added some other benefits. FOBM did some studies on trail usage and economic benefits – **Sharon** will send to Mike.
 9. **Everybody** send comments to Mike re Chapters 1, 2 and 5, using track changes.
 10. Chapter 3 – preview maps. Scott put up Map 1 - regional trails. This is conceptual, not exact. It has the major trails – Columbia Plateau, Ice Age Floods Trail, two water trails (NW Discovery Water trail on the Snake and Greater Columbia River Trail). What about the Lewis and Clark trail and the Oregon Trail? The latter would be further south. Map 2 – major public lands, in brown. This is broad brush. What about DOE land, east of hwy 240 – should this be part of the major public lands? The overview map doesn’t have the Saddle Mountains because it’s outside the county. We’re focusing on Benton and Franklin counties. Map 3 - Benton County priority preservation areas are in blue, tied in to recommendation numbers. The disclaimer is on all the maps. Have these been printed to look at the colors and see if there’s enough contrast to show up? The new 2009 GIS maps have better contrast and Scott is working with these now (they just came in). Map 4 – Benton County smaller area – the priority areas have recommendations. Map 5 – Yakima Bluffs area. Map 6 – goes to the east. Map 7 – Ridges to Rivers Trails – conceptual map (yellow – have; red – desired). Balloons identify particular areas. The extent of the map was determined by the scale needed to see some details. Do we want to overlay the regional trails on this map? Can we make some connections to the regional trails, even if they weren’t brought up in the public meetings. We want to include our input as a steering committee, since we can see how it all fits together when we pulled together the maps. Map 8 Conceptual Wallula Gap trail. Map 9 Conceptual Tapteal Greenway Trail – connecting Horn Rapids Park to WE Johnson Park. Map 10 Conceptual State Patrol – Jump Off Joe Trail; could connect to Zintel Canyon and/or to Hover Park, even to Wallula Gap. Map 11 Conceptual Badger Mt. – Candy Mt. trail; add yellow trail past Hwy 224 towards Red Mtn. Map 12 Conceptual Ridges to Rivers Loop trail. Map 13 Conceptual Benton City – Horn Rapids Park – McDonald Ridge – Rattlesnake Slope Trail. Map 14 Conceptual McDonald Ridge Trail (already scheduled for high-end \$1M gated community). Map 15 Conceptual McBee Grade Trail (all BLM property) – could McBee Grade Road be highlighted on this map (a different color)? Map 16 Major Public Lands, Franklin County – the squares are all DNR, we don’t know which are trust lands and which aren’t. Map 17 Sacajawea Heritage Trail – this is what communities can do when they come together. Map 18 Conceptual Esquatzel Coulee Trail – all state property, public access, public fishing ponds. Map 19 Conceptual Scootney Trail – follows drainages, includes Bureau of Reclamation lands.
 11. The introduction could use an overall map, similar to the regional trails map, but maybe including area further south. Include the boundaries of Benton and Franklin Counties and then some major

landmarks like Palouse River, Rattlesnake Hills, Wallula Gap. We do want some of the surrounding counties, put it in context. Include the Saddle Mountains, Horse Heavens, McNary.