

OSN Steering Committee Meeting February 4, 2009

Minutes

Present: Sue Abbott, Lorna Deckert, Adam Fyall, Sharon Grant, Bill King, George Last, Mike Lilga, Ferdouse Oneza, Len Pavelka, Tom Page, Barb Valinske, Rick White, Scott Woodward, Debbie Berkowitz

Final decision:

Show old and new maps and talk about them.

First question: What do you think about our results so far? What would you like to add or refine?

Second question: What are some of the issues/constraints? What solutions can you recommend?

Third question: How would you like to contribute to help the plan succeed?

Fourth question: What are the most important factors for you for choosing open space for preservation? Consider criteria such as most unique, most visible, most threatened by development, connects to existing protected areas, connects to other features, easy to get to, includes natural habitat, etc. People can come up with their own criteria. Give people three dots – choose three items (you can put all three dots on one item or spread them around).

Sue will make list of these questions. **Sue** will make the label for the maps as discussed above. **Sue** will put together a list – natural areas and habitats, vistas, developed parks, trails, paved paths, ridges. **Sharon** will send **Adam** the electronic version of the flier and Adam will print 20 more copies (we have 30 copies).

Scott will bring the maps with lots of dots.

For Feb. 5: **Mike and George** will do Tapteal Greenway. **Sharon, Bill and Tom** will do Badger Ridges. **Adam and Oneza** will do SE Benton County. **Scott and Len** will do Franklin County/Pasco. **Lorna and Debbie** will do Benton City. **Barb** will be timekeeper. We should get there at about 5:15.

There will be sign in sheets at the groups. **Barb and Lorna** will bring clipboards.

Mike will bring copies of his article and copies of the article in yesterday's TCH.

Note that Action Items are Bolded and Underlined and in red in the text.

1. Public Workshop final details. We're pretty well set up thanks to Mike and Sharon. What do we want on the fliers? We want everybody to take home the original fliers; but it's not quite updated – Benton City and Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance are now members, not pending. Lorna said it was ok with Benton City if we didn't update. **Sharon** will send **Adam** the electronic version and Adam will print 20 more copies (we have 30 copies). Are we putting dots on the group signs? How do we get at the issue of priorities? Handout – agenda for the workshops. Validate, prioritize, identify challenges, brainstorm solutions, get buy-in. Did we capture what you said won't apply to people who didn't come to workshop 1 or fill in survey. What are the priorities between ridges or between a ridge and a trail, or between one kind of trail or another. People will self-select for the 5 groups. After the closing, we want people to be able to move to the other stations and browse. The facilitators will stay with their stations. Have these specific places been put on the map? We can't ask, did we hear you correctly? We can ask, have we gotten it right so far? We have a long list – we can ask are you interested in this? Every map has 2 colors – yellow is recognized public access (this is what people have traditionally used); red is not recognized public access, that becomes public discussion. There are 17 maps plus an overall map that looks down from satellite view – has 17 of the top choices by location. Each map is labeled; each has a specific trail; all the cities are labeled. Do we have a list of areas that people have brought up? How can we get this information so it can be recorded and be usable. We can post a copy of the survey/workshop results on the website; do we want some copies at the workshop? The group leaders should have a copy with them. We want to find out about vistas, habitats, and trails. Are we overemphasizing trails over landscape issues? What do we have that we can use to connect ridges to rivers? A lot of people use the trails, but others like the fact that Badger Mtn is not covered, it's a landscape preservation, they might not be oriented towards a trail. A lot of people liked the trails along the Columbia River. That aspect doesn't show up in the survey result. Maps from the last workshop show areas. We are trying to get a sense of the group. The facilitator asks this vs this. Preservation of habitats was high in people's interest. The focus here is on trails. Facilitators need to name landscapes, vistas, habitats, trails. We're not going to vote. We're trying to get a sense of the group. Is it worth asking a question? What vistas are important in this geographical area to you? What habitats are important in this area to you? What trails are important in this area? "Priorities" mean different things to different people. Does the question of priorities mean anything? Or do we have this info from before? Maybe we should focus in on the challenges. By doing this, we're asking people to get engaged. We know the challenges and don't need to get that info from the public. We want validation. Structure this so we focus on what we think is useful to us. Here's what the public thinks is important and here's the data to support this. This adds value to the planning agencies. The planning agencies know what the challenges are. We have the validation in many ways, through the surveys and workshops. Did we hear you, did we get it right? What did we miss? We want buy-in based on Scott's maps and concepts. But the new maps have mainly trails. Show people on a map the areas that they talked about last time. We need to have a list of areas. The facilitator can talk about habitats, natural areas, and vistas. On the red line, there may be habitats, natural areas, and vistas included that we'd like to have. It might help to have both the old maps and the new maps. It helps to show people what we've done before. Discussion of challenges is still valuable; we don't know all the answers. It's a mechanism to get people to think about what it's going to take to pull this process off. It's also a reality check as to what is possible. That'll help validate what we put in the plan. We may have people say, raise taxes. The old maps are divided geographically; will it be appropriate to have one in each group? **Scott** will bring the maps with lots of dots. What do priorities mean? We should ask and write down what their priorities are. What's most important to you, not what should be done first. Do we want feedback about opportunities/benefits. Talk about challenges, then ask about priorities. What do you think about our results so far – showing them old maps, new maps and explaining both – a good icebreaker. Don't let it go on too long.

Second question discussed but eliminated: In this geographic area, out of what people have named, what is most important to you – either specific or generic? **Sue** will put together a list –

natural areas and habitats, vistas, developed parks, trails, paved paths, ridges, specific locations/areas/features. Do you want to see a vista preserved or a trail built? Easiest way to capture would be with tic marks. What specific things/places do you think are most important? Give me your top 3 specific areas/features. What should we preserve or create? How are we going to merge the info from the last workshop, the surveys, and this workshop? We need a higher level decision. Of these four main trail concepts, which should we focus on and try to complete? The idea is to integrate all the things that are being done; it needs to be done around some concepts. We haven't completed an inventory for this project. It sounds like we still want info back from the public about what we want; getting validation from the public about what we're doing. In our draft action plan, we've already identified what we'd like to learn from the public. We want the public to tell us what are the criteria for prioritizing landscape features. What is the validation if Richland has the most people there? We do have a list of areas/trails/bike paths/horse interests/boat interests, but not by geographic areas. Asking what priorities are in ridges vs habitats – this would be a very difficult question to answer.

[Second question but changed – see final decision above](#): Develop a list of criteria for prioritizing landscape features? We have a list in the draft action plan. What are the criteria for prioritizing landscape features for preservation and interpretation for the public, educators, and regional marketing efforts? Get people to come up with criteria. How will the plan come up with trail systems, properties, etc. that would be most important. If we get buy-in on the criteria, we have a rational way of prioritizing. What are the criteria for prioritizing landscape features and trail systems? Which of the following criteria do you consider most important for preservation? Consider criteria such as most unique, most visible, most threatened, proximity to existing open space, proximity to other features, proximity to town, etc. Add lines so people can add other criteria that they come up with. Give people dots – top three items. You can put all three dots in one place if you prefer.