

## Minutes

### Historic Columbia River Highway Citizens' Advisory Committee

January 23, 1991

Inn at the Locks  
Cascade Locks

Members Present: Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman, Jack Wiles, James Hamrick, John Lundell, Carolyn Wood, Lorna Stickel, Dave Jensen, Ken Jernstedt.

Members Absent: Don Adams, Julie Curtis.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, William Whitacre.

Public Present: Gayle Rothrock, Columbia River Gorge Commissioner; George Lewis, City Administrator, Cascade Locks; Ginnie Grilley, Sue Plaisance, Mt. Hood National Forest; Patti Ann Monzie, Mike Kania, Roberta Hilbruner, Sandi Orton, Dan Blott, CRGNSA Forest Service; Stephen Kenney, Jr.; Ed Robertson, Chinook Trail Association; Carl Long, Court Reporter; Ron Somers, representing J.A. Bryant, Inc..

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as written with one change; Nancy Russel wrote that her suggestion was that the sign state "Mitchell Point Overlook" not just "Mitchell Point."

#### **Priorities for National Scenic Area Funding**

The CAC discussed priorities of connection projects for potential funding by the National Scenic Area. Reopening the Mosier Twin Tunnels remains the top priority of the CAC. The Toothrock connection project (Tanner Creek to Eagle Creek) and the Yeon to Tanner Creek connection project received equal number of votes for the second most important project. The Ruckel Creek to Cascade Locks connection project was the last project included in this priority ranking. A comment was made that the least expensive project would be completed first if funding is limited. Jeanette Kloos mentioned the letter that was sent recently to the Forest Service requesting inclusion of the \$2.8 million in the next budget, with the funds going to Oregon State Parks if possible.

#### **Oregon Transportation Commission Request**

The CAC discussed and approved the draft letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission. This letter outlined a program to complete projects on the portions of the HCRH that are open to traffic by 1998. Jack Wiles requested addition of an item implementing the signing proposals by the National Scenic Area. While the fingerboards will be used only at locations where all directions are stopped, there may be some along the HCRH. Since the costs are not known, this item was listed as "to be determined". It was noted that similar input into the future State Parks budget would also be appropriate.

#### **Access to and Width of HCRH**

Jeanette Kloos read the comments sent as background material to the CAC (attached). The CAC agreed to tentatively adopt these comments as guidance to the maintenance districts. They

requested that a review of the proposals in Corbett, Bridal Veil and Rowena occur after they had a chance to review the situation in the field. The CAC recommended that the maintenance districts continue to send all access permit requests to Jeanette Kloos, who will distribute to the committee if necessary.

The CAC discussed the width of pavement that should be cleared on connection projects. It was agreed that any growth that would cause damage should be removed. Moss can remain on bridge rails and on pavement, beyond the actual trail width. This width should be between 6 and 10 feet, depending on the situation. Drainage will need to be handled on a case by case basis. The CAC recommended that these suggestions be sent to the maintenance districts as guidance.

### **Cascade Locks Motel Proposal**

George Lewis presented information about the Cascade Locks Motel proposal. The Conference Facility includes a room capable of holding 300 people and a 69 unit motel. 171 off-street parking spaces are proposed. Street trees, sidewalks and lighting are proposed. Four defined entrance/exits would replace the current undefined access points. He said that large rigs would be directed to the overnight parking area in front of the high school, rather than allowing them to park under the bridge as they currently do. The CAC unanimously agreed to approve the general concept. They also recommended that ODOT transfer the property currently owned by Highway Division, but not used by Cascade Locks Highway, to private ownership.

### **Other Projects in Cascade Locks**

George Lewis described several other projects along the HCRH in Cascade Locks. The City would like to use the HCRH pavement above the frontage road between the Forest Service Work Station and Herman Creek for a bike path. The City has a permit to bury their utility lines east from the Acton Substation 1.8 miles. Lewis McArthur asked him to keep the CAC informed about the details of this project. A Wanapa 2000 committee will develop a plan for the appearance of the HCRH through the city. The CAC will be invited to participate in this discussion. Lewis McArthur and James Hamrick suggested that a cultural resource study be incorporated in the study. Jack Wiles requested that traffic, access and landscaping decisions be brought before the CAC before they are adopted. George Lewis agreed that this would be done.

### **Bryant Quarry**

The draft response to the Gorge Commission's request was reviewed. Also discussed were the April inspection report and the December 14 report prepared by Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (attached). Ron Somers, representing Bryant, noted that he did not get notice that this issue would be discussed until late January 22. He also said that he did not know that there were any problems associated with the berm. He stated that it was ok if the area was condemned (purchased).

The time frame for response was discussed. This is not a Development Review with legal established time limits and notices. Lorna Stickel noted that the CAC had received no response to its April, 1989 request for a Development Review of this area.

Ron Somers said that the area was covered by a 1971 permit. He said that the George Quarry should not be confused with the adjacent commercial area or the area across the HCRH owned by Hood River Sand and Gravel.

Lewis McArthur said that all the areas should be considered as open for comments by the CAC,

since the information given was not sufficient to delineate the different ownerships. Lorna Stickel said that all of the operations in the area were inconsistent with the HCRH.

Lewis McArthur agree to redraft the letter to clarify that the comments included in it were not limited to the George Quarry. The second draft would be sent to the CAC and to Ron Somers for review before being sent to the Gorge Commission.

### **Multnomah Falls Fence**

The new design proposed by Mike Abbate for the fence along the railroad near Multnomah Falls was reviewed. James Hamrick commented that it is much better than the first design. The Union Pacific Railroad has donated \$38,000 to construct a test section.

### **Legislative Proposal**

Lewis McArthur presented the draft language for a legislative proposal (attached). Carolyn Wood recommended that it should be in the form of a bill rather than a resolution, so that it would be binding. Ken Jernstedt agreed and suggested that a statement be added that no additional funding was being requested to accomplish the purchase of the original right-of-way. A motion was made to approve the intent of the draft. Ken Jernstedt will determine which legislators should be approached to carry the bill.

### **Chenoweth Interchange**

John Lundell said that he will not only represent the HCRH CAC on the Chenoweth Interchange CAC, but he would be the Interchange CAC representative on the TAC. The Interchange CAC has had two meetings so far. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has asked that an alternative within the Urban area be considered.

### **Activity Reports**

Jeanette Kloos noted that the two-rail guardrail has reportedly passed the crash test. A video of the test may be available at the next meeting.

William Whitacre reported that two cars and five loads of garbage had been removed from the area near Dry Canyon. The Dry Canyon Bridge rail is complete. (John Lundell commented that the job was done well.) The Mosier Bridge rail repair will wait until warmer weather.

Jack Wiles said that the hiking proposals had been sent to the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. The time frame for commitments for the leaders is not as short as originally thought. State Parks has not capital budget, due to Measure 5. There is a proposal to add a one cent tax on soft drinks, with the revenue to go to Parks, but it is just a proposal so far.

Mike Kania explained the current status of the sign contract. The Sign Committee met January 21 and was shown the mock-up signs proposed by the consultant. These will also be shown at the Gorge Commission meeting January 24. There has not been a lot of support for the car design for the HCRH. The consultant says that the existing sign does not work and gave an idea that is legible at highway speeds. Carolyn Wood said that the existing sign is better than none, especially for directions. The consultant has developed a design for other signs that incorporates an arched top, hexagonal posts and unique colors. Attached are several examples of different sizes and shapes of signs. Note that the logos of operating agencies can be incorporated into the signs. Mt. Hood Loop

and other logos can also be used with this shape. The Forest hopes to have one prototype sign produced this year to test the design; this may be an Scenic Area entry sign. All the agencies will need to agree for the project to be a success. The process of getting approvals is the next step.

Gayle Rothrock told us that Brian Litt was not able to come because he was in a serious car accident the day before. The Gorge Commission has almost completed the open houses concerning their Draft Management Plan. Public Hearings will be held on January 24 and February 11. (Note a third hearing was added on February 22 from 9AM to 9PM in The Dalles.) Key parts of the Draft Management Plan are open space designations, residential densities near Urban Areas and cultural resources. After additional meetings and reworking of the document based on comments received, the document will be combined with the Forest Service document on the Special Management Areas. The Commission hopes to have a final vote on the plan in mid- to late April.

Lewis McArthur asked about the potential open space designation for the area surrounding the Hood River To Mosier project. If it is not designated open space, but is designated forest, there will be no controls, other than the Oregon Forest Practices Act, on logging in this area. Gayle Rothrock said that the Commission would be interested if there were other reasons, besides scenic resource protection, that this area should be designated open space.

### **Interpretive Center Access**

Sandy Orton and Dan Blott described the work that has occurred on access to the Interpretive Center. Three alternatives were examined: 1 existing; 2 200 feet to the west; 3 a straight shot from the HCRH to the underpass. Two other options were discussed of the intersection design: addition of a right turn lane or a no passing zone and 40 mph speed zone. Lorna Stickel was concerned that alternatives 2 and 3 would create a second access to the HCRH. Mike Kania thought that this was an advantage rather than a disadvantage, since uses would be separated. Jack Wiles agreed with Lorna that we do not want more accesses if it is possible to use just one. Carolyn Wood moved that the CAC accept Alternative 2; this passed, with Lorna Stickel opposing. The options were then discussed. The CAC agreed that they wanted to see a traffic analysis and Dwight Smith's comments on the affect of option 1 on the HCRH.

### **Interpretive Strategy**

Roberta Hilbruner briefly discussed the Interpretive Strategy. She assured the CAC that the HCRH will be interpreted at the Interpretive Center, but she does not know exactly how yet. Jeanette Kloos was asked to review rough sketches and draft text. Lewis McArthur suggested that the display from the 75th Anniversary might be used at the Interpretive Center. Roberta said that slides had been made from Nancy Russel's pictures and they will be available for others to use. The theme for the HCRH is meant to tie together lots of different subjects that occur along the highway, not just the history of the HCRH.

### **75th Anniversary**

Nancy Goss Duran, Pam Wilson and Maggy Bendingson from Northwest Strategies described their work to date and distributed a draft work plan and budget (attached). They are trying to talk to as many people as possible now to get ideas and determine which ideas will work. Nothing is cast in stone yet. They asked the CAC for names of people who should be included in discussions, and, in particular, people who should be involved on June 15 and 16. The budget is a high-end one, and things can be deleted if fundraising is not sufficient. The media plan contains a segmented approach, targeting different information to different people.

Gayle Rothrock suggested that American Association of Retired Persons should be a potential media target. She also suggested that the handicapped community could be another target.

Ken Jernstedt suggested that we remember to play to our strengths and not forget Portland, the Region, Washington, California, etc.

Jack Wiles asked if The Oregonian had been considered as a potential sponsor. Nancy Goss Duran said yes, particularly for the photo contest. Ken Jernstedt said that the editor of Northwest Magazine was a Hood River native.

Additions to the budget include a time capsule and involvement of children. The subcommittee will meet about every two weeks. The next scheduled meetings are February 7 and 25, both at 1:30 in the Milwaukie Highway office.

Carolyn Wood said that Maryhill Museum has a lot of original material from Sam Hill concerning the HCRH. The Museum also has about 80,000 tourist between March and September. They should be contacted to see if they will highlight the HCRH with an exhibit from their own collection this summer. They may want some funding to do this.

Roberta Hilbruner asked how the Forest Service will be tied into the event. Nancy Goss Duran said that Forest Service permits will be needed. She has already contacted Mike Ferris and he had been helpful in developing lists of people to contact. Mike Kania will make the determination of Consistency with the National Scenic Area Act. Roberta thought that the Forest Service might be able to provide people to help during the event. Gayle Rothrock said that the Gorge Commission is also supportive and some members may be willing to volunteer.

John Lundell asked what age kids would be involved. Fourth or fifth grade seems appropriate since Oregon History is studied in fourth grade.

Someone suggested that Northwest Aluminum might be willing to donate the time capsule.

### **Next meeting**

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 27 at the Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River.

Attachments  
Draft Width Information  
DOGAMI inspection reports  
Legislative proposal  
Signs  
Diamond Jubilee