

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 21, 1990

Members Present: Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman; John Lundell; Carolyn Wood; Dave Jensen; Ken Jernstedt; Don Adams; Julie Curtis; Mark Hess, substituting for Lorna Stickel; Bob True, substituting for Jack Wiles.

Members Absent: James Hamrick, interim State Historic Preservation Office representative.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos, Ken Allmer, William Whitacre, Ken Senn, OSHD; Frank Arnold, State Parks.

Others attending: Phil Hirl, Tom Strassudier, Thomas Shuman, Sue Plaisance, Forest Service; Glenn Slack, Horseless Carriage Club of America - Antique Autos; Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Stephen Kenney, Jr.; Sharon Timko, Multnomah County.

Lewis L. McArthur opened the meeting by introducing Ken Jernstedt, the new Governor's appointee to the committee from Hood River.

### **75th Anniversary Celebration**

An update about the celebration was distributed (attached). Lewis L. McArthur discussed a draft letter (attached) to be signed by Governor Goldschmidt to Ford Motor Company. The draft letter was not addressed to a particular person because the Governor knows some of the people at Ford personally and he will decide to whom it should be addressed. It is expected to be signed next week. The letter includes a request for \$65,000. This would be used to hire a coordinator for the celebration, produce a map (by Historic Preservation League of Oregon, similar to the one on the South Coast), produce a video of the celebration, a reception and work on a connection project.

Jeanette Kloos relayed information gathered by Barbara Bailey about including an opera singer in the celebration. Kari Parris-Lough performed at the Multnomah Falls 75th Anniversary Celebration September 8 and received good reviews. She is available and would like to do additional singing in the Gorge. Barbara Bailey asked if she should make firm commitments with Parris-Lough or if she should contact the Portland Opera. Julie Curtis mentioned that opera singing turns some people off. The CAC decided that the original dedication should be further investigated to see what singing, if any was included. We would like to recreate parts of the original dedication, when feasible. Julie Curtis and Jeanette Kloos will form a subcommittee to discuss all the entertainment at the celebration, including the opera singer and ceremonies. Barbara Bailey will also be asked to participate.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge Hiking Weekend will be the same weekend. Continued coordination is needed so that these two activities compliment and do not conflict.

The Antique Car Rally was discussed. The age range of cars needs to be determined. Two possible cut-off dates were suggested: somewhere in the 1920s and 1949 (the last bridge constructed that is

included in the district is the new Oneonta Creek Bridge, built in 1948). Glenn Slack suggested that a mix of cars is preferable. Jeanette Kloos mentioned that several clubs have responded that they are interested in participating. Dave Jensen will head a subcommittee to plan the antique car portion of the celebration. Glenn Slack offered to help.

Ken Jernstedt requested a formal proclamation from the Governor. Lewis McArthur thought it should be delayed until the new Governor is elected. The CAC decided to draft a proclamation and ask the Governor whether he would like to sign it. Jeanette Kloos and Janis Collins will pursue this.

The bike portion of the celebration was discussed. Julie Curtis will try to get the director of Cycle Oregon to help organize this portion. Nancy Russell mentioned that there already are bike tours as a part of the FOCG Hiking Weekend. She warned that we do not want too many things happening at once. Lorna Stickel will be asked to head a subcommittee to organize this portion. Janet Tobkin has also volunteered to be involved and Richard Ross has been contacted.

Bob True will head the subcommittee to organize the hikes on the connection projects, in conjunction with the Forest Service and FOCG.

Bus tours were discussed. The Forest Service may be able to provide interpreters on busses. Lewis McArthur, with Julie Curtis' assistance will work on this aspect.

John Lundell will organize the activities on the eastern end. He will contact Berta Youtie of The Nature Conservancy (228-9561). A hike at Tom McCall Preserve is normally a part of FOCG Hiking Weekend.

Don Adams will discuss with Dwight Smith the possibility of tours of historic structures (bridges).

Lewis McArthur and Jeanette Kloos will work on availability of facilities, including the Jacobson House, Forrest Hall, Vista House, Troutdale Historical Society Museum, and Eagle Creek Overlook.

John Lundell reminded the CAC that the Gorge Commission should be included in planning the celebration.

Someone asked if any of Sam Hill's relatives were still alive. Lewis McArthur said yes, citing a current law suit. Ken Jernstedt agreed to look for descendants of major people involved in the construction of the highway. Sig Unander, Jr. has already indicated a willingness to participate. Dr. Gilbert T. Benson participated in the Multnomah Falls celebration. A Granddaughter of Sam Lancaster came to the hearing creating the CAC in 1987, but her name and address are not known (Salem?).

Don Adams requested that some working maps be available to help organize the celebration. Lewis McArthur will work with ODOT and the FS National Scenic Area to find an appropriate map.

All subcommittees should meet and submit reports before the next CAC meeting. Especially important are proposed budgets and possible scheduling.

Someone suggested that a segment of "The Collectors" could be filmed in conjunction with the celebration. There seemed to be general agreement that this idea should be investigated further.

Julie Curtis stated that someone needs to be in charge of publicity. We still want to pursue a media sponsor. A souvenir post card, poster and brochure were all suggested.

Lewis McArthur said that we would like to have some of the projects open (connection projects, Moffett Creek Bridge, Ruthton Point viewpoint). He asked if we could spend some money to hire inmate labor to do some hand labor. Jeanette Kloos said that the crew at Wyeth was still willing to work on a no-charge basis, if the liability issue is resolved. (This appears possible.) Another possibility is hiring the Inverness Jail crew currently working for District 2B on landscaping projects. A source of funding would need to be found, however.

Parking for the celebration was discussed. Frank Arnold said that the field next to Portland Women's Forum would be available. The Forest Service used the old Bridal Veil mill area for the Multnomah Falls celebration. For a shuttle system to work, a parking area would be needed. There are 1800 spaces at Rooster Rock and they are usually not full in June. Benson State Park is usually full. For the Multnomah Falls celebration the Forest Service reserved the area in front of the Lodge for the antique cars. This and other traffic decisions need to be made.

Don Adams recommended that the subcommittees lay out guidelines for the celebration and bring them to the next CAC meeting. It is especially important that the goal or theme of the celebration be expanded and given more pizzazz. Don Adams will talk to John Elliott to request Lisa Bollinger's help in planning the celebration.

Lewis McArthur has talked with the Oregon Historical Society. They are interested in developing an exhibit. It would start in the Gorge before the event, move to Portland during Rose Festival, then on to other places in the state. \$10,000 in the request to Ford Motor Company is for this display. Carolyn Wood mentioned that museums at Maryhill and The Dalles are interested in the display, but they need to know soon what the size would be. They already have their displays scheduled for next year.

The CAC decided that the Portland Women's Forum tour in May was too early to be included in information we would be producing. We would want to coordinate with time and hope that they would distribute information about our event during their tour.

Ken Jernstedt thought that Senator Packwood or Senator Hatfield would be appropriate people to contact President Bush to request his participation in the celebration. He did not think the contact would need to be made too far in advance, but he would make the first contact with Packwood soon. He expected that Packwood's staff would be able to figure out the mechanics of recreating the flag unfurling.

Concerning funding, we should have a response from Ford by the next CAC meeting. Jack Mills agreed previously to help with the funding committee. In the meantime, Lewis McArthur will contact the Association of General Contractors and others on the update list of possible funding sources.

Nancy Russell cautioned that we need to keep the celebration manageable. Multnomah Falls has a limit of 1000 people at one time; 1000 people turned out for one Folks March during the last FOCG hiking weekend. She echoed that the CAC needs to fine tune the theme. She recommended that the time frame be limited to before 1925 or 1930.

Stephen Kenney Jr. said that he had a major collection of old post cards, including many pictures of the original dedication. He noted that large flags were hung over the HCRH at Wahkeena, Oneonta and other locations. He has a post card of the opera singer (Jinelli?).

There need to be contingency plans for the ceremonies in case of bad weather (tents, indoor locations).

### **Funding of Projects - Five Year Plan**

The attached draft letter to Highway Division, Oregon State Parks, National Scenic Area and Mt. Hood National Forest was distributed and discussed. Lewis McArthur said that he would like to participate in the meeting. Additional copies need to be sent to Gayle Rothrock and Phil Hirl, at the Regional Office of the Forest Service.

Lewis McArthur reported that he has had discussions with Gail Achterman, Jane Cease and Glen Otto concerning HCRH District property currently in private ownership. In particular, McArthur is continuing to work on the Vershingle problem. Jeanette Kloos has recently learned that a portion of the HCRH property at Ruthton point is private, owned (in part) by Sheldon Struck. The CAC asked that the right-of-way at Ruthton Point be delineated and that a permit of entry be negotiated.

Lewis McArthur reported on a field review with John Howard, retired Bridge engineer from ODOT. They examined Toothrock and the Eagle Creek Viaduct, Ruckel Creek, the location of the possible tunnel under the freeway near Cascade Locks and the Moffett Creek Bridge. John Howard and Walt Hart, retired Bridge Engineer from ODOT, would work on costs and designs for these projects on a volunteer basis.

Lewis McArthur requested that CAC members look for additional sources of minor amounts of funding (\$500-1000).

Additional research needs to be done to determine which portions of the HCRH are on Forest Service property. Phil Hirl asked who was responsible for those portions? Another questions was who would be responsible for maintenance on the connection projects?

### **Signs**

Nancy Russell requested that two signs be examined. She wondered why there was still no sign on the sign post for the Mitchell Point exit. The controversy about the wording should be resolved and the sign mounted. She also said that the Ruthton Park sign needed repair. Since this Park has been transferred to Hood River County, Ken Jernstedt will investigate. Lewis McArthur asked Phil Hirl about the installation of a 1920s vintage sign on the post near the Forest boundary. Hirl will work on this.

### **Crown Point Turnouts**

The CAC agreed that the first design was preferable to the scroll design. Jeanette Kloos noted that most of the area was already paved. Lewis McArthur suggested that a design similar to the first design, with arches and a concrete cap, on top of a 4 or 5 inch concrete curb or foundation would be acceptable to the historic preservation interests. He had discussed this with Dave Powers and Dwight Smith previously. The CAC unanimously passed a motion to request that the project be pursued and that funding for the project be added to the budget as soon as possible.

### **Traffic Management Phase 2**

Ken Senn asked the CAC for additional input on the scope of work for the Traffic Management Phase 2 study. Currently included are one-way operation with bike lane, toll operation, shuttle system, open to bicycles only, seasonal operation of restrictions and existing. Comments from the Gorge Commission Transportation Committee were to investigate weight or size restrictions. This could eliminate regular size busses, which might then transfer their passengers to narrow busses, which could be in some way unique (open air?). Ken Senn noted that there had been no increase in traffic at the permanent traffic recorder at Bridal Veil. He sees the problem more as a parking problem than a capacity problem. The CAC agreed that a vehicle size restriction needs to be explored. Tom Strassudier asked about whether bike groups could be required to provide traffic control while they were using the HCRH. ODOT can currently only require permits for bike races. He also asked if it would be possible to control tour bus schedules, perhaps to week days only? Traffic on the Mosier-The Dalles section will be increasing in the future with the opening of the Interpretive Center. This needs to be considered. The Forest Service also said that the study should look at the idea of a one-way connection between the HCRH and I-84 parking area at Multnomah Falls, as included in the Multnomah Falls Site Plan.

### **Activity Reports**

Don Adams said that the 6 Year Highway Improvement Plan is published. Wayne Cobine took a tour of the HCRH earlier in the week. The single rail wooden guardrail is under construction near the Sandy River. The 2-rail wooden guardrail crash test is being postponed by the testing agency.

Ken Allmer said that he will start locating the old mile posts within the next month or two, using the 1924 mile post log. Region 1 will fabricate the mile posts. Project development is expected to start soon on the Chenoweth Interchange. He will ask that the CAC participate in the process. Cleanup was accomplished at Tooley Lake, as requested at the last meeting. There was a meeting Tuesday to discuss the proposed development at Squally Point. A recreation feasibility study is proposed. There may be access from the HCRH. The Hog Hollow bridge is almost complete and work will start soon on the Mosier Creek Bridge.

Ken Allmer asked what had happened to the request to launch a car over the HCRH near Rowena Crest. Jeanette Kloos explained that the request had raised so many questions from so many parties, that the film maker decided to go elsewhere before all the questions were answered. Lewis McArthur said that the only good that would have come out of the proposal would have been the removal of one of the junk cars. District 9 will try to clean up the area, especially the junk car near Hog Hollow.

Frank Arnold reported that Jack Wiles is the official Parks representative on the CAC. The East Mayer parking area paving would probably be completed today. More landscaping is expected. A picnic shelter is planned for Guy Talbot State Park; the design will be brought to the CAC in the future. Lots of films are being located in State Parks; about 50 this year. Currently only a \$100 fee and liability insurance is required. State Parks is investigating raising the fee. (It was noted that Highway Division currently has no fee for filming on highway property.) Julie Curtis suggested that Parks talk to Mike Heilman of the Forest Service and California parks to see what they charge. She also recommended that Parks contact the Film and Video Office of Economic Development Department. Jeanette Kloos relayed information from the Historic Preservation League of Oregon that a guideline document is being developed for owners of historic properties to use when film companies want to use the properties. These guidelines will be distributed when finalized. The CAC unanimously approved a motion that State Parks and Oregon Transportation Commission be requested to charge an additional fee when the HCRH is used for film and video activity, with the additional funds raised to be used on the HCRH connection projects. Julie Curtis also noted that

the Film and Video office is investigating a one-stop permit and fee process.

Rod Mace said that Mike Ferris, NSA FS, will help on publicity for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. The second sign contract is signed but will not begin until Congress agrees on a budget. Rod Mace said that several of the connection projects are included in the Recreation Plan. Completion of Trail 400 is a major component of the Plan.

Rod Mace also relayed information from Brian Litt. The compatibility study for a potential recreation site at Ainsworth is in progress. The Recreation Intensity Zone guidelines and standards (attached) will be discussed at the Gorge Commission meeting September 24. The CAC quickly reviewed the letter and requested that Jeanette Kloos relay to the Commission that it was important for the exception process be usable for all zones, not just zone 4. Changes in allowable parking areas along the HCRH should be in consultation with the HCRH CAC.

Plans to implement the Scenic Corridor Study were due October 15, but ODOT has not determine an implementation strategy.

The Forest Service is beginning to plan the Interpretive Center. They are discussing how to direct people to the center. They have suggested a row of trees or plants be planted along the HCRH. ODOT staff do not think this would be acceptable within the historic district. Dave Jensen suggested a painted strip on the roadway, or something similar to the arrows at Bonneville Dam. The Forest Service requested additional suggestions.

### **Bonneville Lock Top Soil**

Jeanette Kloos discussed the Corps of Engineers proposal to stockpile top soil in the area proposed for the Toothrock segment parking area. The pile would be 8 to 10 feet high and would remain until 1993 or 1994. The CAC agreed that the condition of the road should be at least as good as currently when the project is completed. It is preferable if the road were oiled and accessible to bikes. The CAC also recommended that some top soil be left for future landscaping.

### **Coppey Falls Appeal**

Jeanette Kloos relayed a request from Dr. Gregory Shipp, owner of the Coopey Falls property. He plans to change the development proposal to include only reopening the restaurant and store. Mark Hess noted that the original conditional use permit had expired since the restaurant had been closed more than two years. Bob True noted that State Parks had been asked if they would like to buy the parcel, but they were not interested. The CAC voted unanimously to have no official opinion on the revised proposal.

### **Cox Public Garden and Restaurant**

Jeanette Kloos distributed the Gorge Commission denial of the Cox proposal.

### **Other Topics**

Mark Hess discussed the Corbett Fire House proposals. The County landscaping requirements were not met by the original proposal. He has suggested changes including a landscaped island and peninsula with a 40 foot opening into the parking area. The CAC decided that ODOT and Multnomah County should work together to decide what type and where the boundary between the HCRH and the landscaping should be. The decision should be used when future proposals are

reviewed in the Corbett area.

Jeanette Kloos distributed the attached proposal for a fence along the railroad tracks at Multnomah Falls. Lewis McArthur expressed concern about the height; what views would be blocked?

Sharon Timko presented the Multnomah County proposal for a Corbett Community sign. The County wants to identify where Corbett begins and ends. Currently it is difficult to give directions, because visitors cannot determine where Corbett is. The location(s) for the signs have not been definitively determined. Julie Curtis agreed that Corbett needs identification and a sense of place. She suggested that the County wait until the sign contract was further along, so that ideas from the contract could be incorporated in the design. ODOT has found that outdoor advertizing regulations limit what signs can be placed within designated scenic areas. The CAC unanimously agreed to recommend that OSHD and Multnomah County continue negotiations to arrive at a suitable entrance sign and sign base for the Corbett Community.

The next CAC meeting will be October 24 in The Dalles. The major topic will again be the 75th Anniversary, including desired budgets for different activities, potential time conflicts and other committee reports. John Lundell will try to arrange a tour of the U.S. Grant root cellar after the meeting.

#### Attachments

- letter from Goldschmidt to Ford Motor Company
- Update - 75th Anniversary Celebration
- Draft Letter on funding
- RIZ Guidelines and Standards