

**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
January 6, 2005
Gorge Discovery Center, Board Room
The Dalles, Oregon**

Members Attending:	Art Carroll, Ernie Drapela, James Hamrick, Carolyn Wood, Wayne Stewart, Kevin Price, June Carlson.
Staff Attending:	Jeanette Kloos, Robert Hadlow.
Others Attending:	Iva Harmon, Brad DeHart, Sam Wilkins, Bill Barnhart, Ann Yuhas, Marc Berry.
Note taker:	Charmell Burgess Camacho, ODOT

Wayne Stewart, vice chair, called the meeting to order. The Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the November 16, 2004, meeting without changes.

The AC received word that Jerry Igo is in cardiac care at Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Iva Harmon, president of Mosier Alliance, said that Mosier has a new mayor and four new councilmen. Iva apologized for missing the deadline for the 2005 National Scenic Byway applications.

2005 NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY PROPOSALS

PRIORITIZATION-APPROVAL

Jeanette Kloos

There were no proposals on the HCRH that made the deadline. Cascade Locks and Mosier had considered submitting applications but did not meet the deadline. The Chenoweth Creek Bridge restoration application was submitted, but was missing one signature sheet. The application deadline for 2006 will be this spring.

VISTA HOUSE UPDATE-INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Wayne Stewart

Wayne reviewed the previous recommendation from the HCRH AC, as stated in the attached letter of September 24. He suggested three potential actions: 1) leave recommendation as currently written; 2) revise the recommendation to reflect the current design or 3) some other action. Kevin Price, OPRD talked about the meeting on December 4. Providing access to Vista House is OPRD's top concern. The original, straight design has been revised. During a January 4 meeting, two circular ramps were discussed, with grades of 1:12 and 1:20 (8 percent and 5 percent).

They favored the 1:20 ramp, and in the end voted 17-to-1 for a 1:21 ramp that Wayne proposed. Because it is less than 5 percent, it comes under less restrictive regulations for landings, rails, etc. Additional decisions need to be made on color, railing and materials. OPRD is hoping to have a contractor onboard by March. James Hamrick noted that to achieve action at the March 3 Parks Commission meeting, 60 percent plans need to be completed by January 17; advertisement of the project needs to occur in early February with bids closing on February 22. Parametrix is doing the design work.

There will be additional public review during the Multnomah County development review process. James said that the 30 percent plans will be sent to the HCRH AC and others for review. In addition, he indicated that many positive changes have been made to the design. The handrail will be changed to reflect Wayne's single rail with curved ends. The Section 106 process will be forthcoming, but the Federal partners appear to have agreed with the "No Adverse Effect" level of effect. The County will not approve a temporary occupancy permit so this increases the urgency. Carolyn Wood said she was looking for the opinion of the ADA representative at the meeting and he seemed to approve the 1:21 option for the ramp. Kevin said this was preferred due to the minimal loss of parking and also the security cameras being able to capture license plates when vandalism occurs. This option will not cut into the cement as it is layered on top of it and can be removed if a better alternative is found at a later date.

Art Carroll asked about the interior lift. James said that the lift is expected to be constructed in the same time frame as the ramp. Ernie said the issue is the process, not the design; there was not a design dialogue to reach a preferred solution.

Wayne distributed information from the meeting and a package he prepared. His concern is that the HCRH AC uphold the standards of Sam Hill, Sam Lancaster and John Yeon. They had a true vision that the highway sit lightly on the land. Vista House is a true national treasure; he believes that the OPRD solution does not reflect the values of the site. He understands that this was needed to get through the approvals but that design is an important part that should not be forgotten. Parametrix is not listed under Architects in the phone book and he thinks they may not be able to do the job from this aspect. More thought needs to be given to design.

The Advisory Committee discussed the previous recommendation and determined that it should be revised. June Carlson proposed a new recommendation. After additional discussion the Advisory Committee approved the following motion (7-0): "The HCRH Advisory Committee

thanks OPRD for advancing beyond the straight ramp design. The Advisory Committee likes the concept of a circular, 1:21 ramp that is attached to, but does not cut into the stairs. The Advisory Committee looks forward to seeing additional design details as they are developed for the skirting, railing, bus parking, etc. and trust that the materials proposed will be harmonious with the historic materials. Given the high aesthetic and historic value of Vista House, the Advisory Committee again requests a continuing and serious effort to find to find an alternate design solution other than the proposed ramp at anytime in the future when a different alternative becomes feasible. ." (This last clause, "to continue to look at alternatives," was carried over from the previous recommendation.)

BYLAWS FOR HCRH AC-INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION
June Carlson

A subcommittee was asked to look at the bylaws. The attached draft was presented for discussion in hopes of adoption within the next two-three meetings. Wayne had taken the existing charter and put it into an outline form. June revised the outline, adding material from SB 766 and the older bylaws. All changes that were made are in bold on the draft to help direct attention to what is being proposed rather than focusing on what already exists. The content was discussed and suggestions were made article by article on the first draft. The Advisory Committee discussed having shorter, more frequent meetings, with the potential for work sessions in the afternoon. June will circulate a revised draft of the bylaws.

The subcommittee also brainstormed the 100th anniversary of the HCRH's dedication, including asking how the AC will get where it wants to be in 2016. The potential of Advisory Commission members attending some Oregon Transportation Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and Oregon Tourism Commission meetings will be explored. An implementing strategy needs to be developed, including how to develop stable funding. A future "retreat" to discuss what the Advisory Committee wants to accomplish next year was also discussed based on the discussion.

INVASIVE SPECIES SEMINAR UPDATE
Jeanette Kloos

Notes from the Invasive Species Seminar that was held Saturday, November 20 were distributed (attached). Additional meetings are needed. Volunteer can make a big difference at individual locations, but agencies need to work together on larger infestations. Several species are way beyond our control. Several meetings will take place to get more organized and help find solutions.

UPDATES

Cascade Locks Underground Electric Line

Matt Garrett is working with Cascade Locks to explore funding possibilities.

I-84 Mile Post 61 Rockfall

In the short term, ODOT will remove the boulders to increase the size of the fallout zone. ODOT will place granular material as an absorption feature. Over the spring/summer the loose rock on the cliff face will be removed.

I-84 Corridor Strategy Dialogue

All committee members should have received letters and phone calls for four upcoming public meetings. The process is different from ODOT's normal public involvement; small groups of people with similar interests will meet during the day to discuss their visions for I-84. AC committee members encouraged to go to one of the daytime meetings. The public meetings will have much of the same information. A second round of public involvement meetings will be held in April. In July the proposed design guidelines will be brought back to the public.

Rowena Pit Restoration

The permitting process is complete. District 9 has started moving some material into pit. The next challenge is the landscaping contract. Looking for a different way to do contracting that will not take as long. Jeanette is investigating using the Western Federal Lands Highway Division contracting system. The goal is to have a landscaping firm available to complete the planting this fall.

Warrendale to Moffett Creek

Plans to be ready for review later this month.

HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs

Advance plan review is complete. Comments and changes are being incorporated into the plans. Agreements for one sign at the end of the walkway at the Gorge Discovery Center, in The Dalles; two at the corner of WaNaPa and Forest Lane, in Cascade Locks; and one at the Columbia Gorge Hotel, in Hood River, are in progress. The Multnomah County review is in progress. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2006.

Casino

No news beyond what has been in the newspapers.

City Programmatic Agreements

There has been no progress recently on the Hood River and Cascade Locks agreements.

Virtual Tour

There have been contracting problem between the two universities developing the virtual tour.

Gutters

FHWA's Western Federal Lands Highway Division expects to begin

construction this summer.

Eagle Creek exit ramp-bike

The first meeting will be held later this month with the Forest Service.

Viento, Wahkeena, and Latourell Falls

Work has not yet begun on these projects.

Oneonta project

Western Federal Lands Highway Division and David Evans and Associates have been developing project and have 30 percent plans and the environmental checklist completed. The tunnel and some of the surrounding land is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad; discussions for an easement have begun.

ACTIVITY STATUS

ODOT

Bill Barnhart

The boulders will be removed soon from behind the barrier at the I-84 MP 61 rockfall. Granular material will be placed behind the barrier. Loose material on the face of the slope will be removed this summer.

On January 4 there was a rockfall at mile post 1.4 on the HCRH. The highway will be closed until the remaining, undercut material can be brought down safely.

Sam Wilkins

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OPRD

Kevin Price

Kevin was approached by duck hunters requesting locations for their sport. He is concerned about lack of designated places for this activity and presented some possible site solutions.

USDA Forest Service

Diana Ross

Not present. W

WFLHD-FHWA

Dave Sell

Not present.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

A list of the projects was distributed.

MEMBERS ISSUES

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

April 7, July 7, October 6, 2005

The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2005, at the Corbett Community Fire Hall. A phone conference may take place earlier, if needed.