



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

- November 1, 2007 Meeting -

Housekeeping

- Attendance:
 - X Ernie Drapela, Chair, Region 3
 - X Bruce Ronning, Region 5
 - X Chuck Solin, Region 2
 - X Bruce Galloway, Region 2
 - Vacant, Region 1
 - X John Mare', Region 2
 - Terry Wheeler, Region 2
- Chair introduction
- Committee introductions
- Minutes Approval
 - Minutes were moved to January meeting for approval.

Council Discussion Items

Agenda Item: Top Five Statewide Trail Priorities

Presented by: ORTAC Council

(Action)

Hx: ORTAC Council members were asked by OPRD Commissioners what their top five statewide trail project/priorities were.

The discussion began with a concern with picking specific projects, when there are so many projects that have importance to local groups and to the statewide system. Consensus was made that ORTAC needed a criteria established before they could select specific projects.

ORTAC members believed that the Trails Plan and the new SCORP have the elements for criteria developed already.

The key issues discussed were:



- Close-to-home trail opportunities
- Connectivity
- A lack of trail opportunities in a certain area
- Supporting of energetic trail groups

Action: ORTAC will form a Sub-Committee headed by Bruce Ronning. They will develop a draft "Top 5 Trail Priorities" list and develop Legislative Concept to present to Kyleen Stone and Richard Walkoski. Bruce Ronning & potentially Chuck Solin would make meet with Kyleen and Richard.

Motion: Chuck Solin

Seconded: Bruce Ronning

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Agenda Item: Wildlife & Water Trails

(Informational)

Presented by: Mike Houck

Vision for a Bi-State Regional Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas System for the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region:

- An interconnected system of neighborhood, community, and regional parks, natural areas, trails, open spaces, and recreation opportunities distributed equitably throughout the region that is valued here and around the world as an essential element of the region's:
 - Economic success
 - Ecological health
 - Civic vitality
 - Quality of life and place
- All residents live and work near and have access – regardless of income – to:
 - Nature
 - Areas for recreation and leisure
 - *Public spaces that bring people together*
 - *and connect them to their community*



- This region-wide system:
 - Drives the economy and tourist trade
 - Preserves significant natural areas
 - Enhances the region's air and water quality
 - Promotes human health, fitness and well-being
 - Connects the region with trails and greenways
- Outcome:
 - Trails and greenways are a fundamental infrastructure actively used to augment transportation networks and link parks, natural areas, waterways, public facilities, neighborhoods, and regional centers.
 - Outcome: The trail and greenway system connects natural resource and other significant areas beyond the metropolitan region.
 - Outcome: Biodiversity protection and recovery is integrated with similar urban initiatives in Salem, Albany, Corvallis, and the Eugene-Springfield area. Parks, trails, and natural area planning are integrated with efforts to maintain biodiversity goals throughout the Willamette Valley.

Agenda Item: METRO

(Informational)

Presented by: Jim Desmond / Kathleen Brennan-Hunter

2006 Natural Areas Program – part of Metro Council's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative

- Habitat protection through land acquisition – from willing sellers
- Incentives and technical assistance to development community
- Education programs and stewardship opportunities for citizens
- Progress reporting and monitoring of fish and wildlife habitat over time

2006 Bond Measure passed with 60% of the vote for \$227.4 million to

- acquire property,
- have local share program and
- a nature in neighborhoods grant programs

2006 Natural Areas Program – Regional Trail Projects

- Cazadero Trail
- Columbia Slough
- Fanno Creek Linkages and Trail
- Gresham-Fairview Trail
- Springwater Corridor (final gap)



- Tonquin Geologic Area (and Trail)
- Tualatin River Greenway
- Westside Trail
- Willamette River Greenway

Agenda Item: City of Vancouver (Informational)

Presented by: Kelly Puntenev, Trails & Greenways Developer
Florence Wager, Vancouver-Clark Parks Commissioner

Kelly presented a short history of the work that they had been completing over the last 15 years to create the existing trail system in Vancouver. The State of Washington is developing a Statewide Trails Plan.

Agenda Item: Historic Columbia River Highway Trails (Informational)

Presented by: Kirsten Stallman, ODOT

Kirsten show cased the key trail projects that ODOT is working on. Mitchell Point to Mt. Hood recently had a design workshop where they invited several engineers, landscape architects and trails professional to visit the sites and develop concepts to construct the trail through these technically difficult areas. The goal is to have the missing sections developed before the 100 year anniversary. The most difficult sections are left.

She is following up on key messages for the marketing strategy and looking for ways to align funding options.



Agenda Item: Port of Portland

(Informational)

Presented by: Sean Loughran, Port of Portland Planner

The Port is currently completing a bike-ped master plan. The connections with the Sandy Delta are important and will utilize the Dike/Reynolds Trail to connect to this area.

Agenda Item: Corvallis to the Sea Trail

(Informational)

Presented by: Gary Chapman

Brief Update of the progress:

- This idea has been around for over 30 years
- The USFS and BLM were prime movers in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s
- OSU Forestry and Recreation students and classes prepared plans for routes
- Various landowners , e.g. small and large timber corporations and the Corvallis Watershed, refused to allow the route to cross their lands or use their roads
- In March 2003 the Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail Partnership was formed
- The goal of our group is to establish a recreational route suitable for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians linking Corvallis with the Oregon Coast
- We addressed the ORTAC in 2003 and obtained its resolution of support as well as similar resolutions from the County Commissioners of Benton and Lincoln Counties
- We obtained a technical support grant from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
- We have negotiated agreements with the City of Corvallis, Starker Forests, Inc., the OSU College of Forestry for use of Old Peak Road linking Philomath with Marys Peak
- We submitted our trail plan to the Siuslaw National Forest and obtained permission to flag trail routes on Siuslaw National Forest Lands
- We have obtained Oregon non-profit corporation status
- We have joined the American Hiking Society as an organizational member
- Monthly meetings and over 5,000 hours of volunteer effort in explorations, planning, and negotiations
- Have trail broken into 3 phases that will have two different route options.



Field Project Reviews

- Oxbow Park

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM



Minutes

- November 2, 2007 Meeting -

Housekeeping

- Attendance:
 - X Ernie Drapela, Chair, Region 1
 - X Bruce Ronning, Region 5
 - X Chuck Solin, Region 2
 - X Bruce Galloway, Region 2
 - Vacant, Region 1
 - X John Mare', Region 2
 - Terry Wheeler, Region 2
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Council Discussion Items

Agenda Item: OPRD Update

(Informational)

Presented by: Tim Wood, Director OPRD

Tim thanked ORTAC for their work and assistance to the agency. OPRD is going to focus on trail planning into their OPRD work plan in the next year. OPRD is currently developing a Centennial Horizons Plan. The plan is a strategic plan that will focus on managing natural and cultural resources. OPRD turns 100 years old in 2022. This plan is focused on this date and beyond.

ORTAC members asked what their role was in the planning of the Centennial Horizons plan. Tim stated that they would be a member of the team, being presented the plan and asked for advisement of components related to trails.

Bruce Galloway thanked Tim for OPRD's work in Southern Oregon on the Regional Recreation planning. He stated it should be a model for future recreation planning.



Tim presented Ernie Drapela a plaque recognizing his contributions to OPRD, trails and the State of Oregon as a member of ORTAC since it began in 1971. This will be Ernie's final meeting as an ORTAC member.

Agenda Item: Elections of Officers

(Action)

Presented by: ORTAC Members

Nominations – Chair

Bruce Galloway nominated Bruce Ronning for Chair. Chuck Solin made a motion to close the nominations for Chair. John Mare' seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to close the nominations.

ORTAC voted for Bruce Ronning to be the Chair. The vote carried unanimously.

Nominations – Vice Chair

Bruce Galloway nominated Chuck Solin for Vice-Chair.

Agenda Item: 2008 Schedule

(Action)

Presented by: ORTAC Members

ORTAC members decided to just schedule the January meeting for now. Next meeting to be on January 17th or 18th, with RTP grant committee meeting being on one of the alternative dates.



Agenda Item: RTP Grant Committee Recommendations (Action)

Presented by: ORTAC Members

ORTAC members recommended John Mare' to be the replacement for Ernie Drapela on the RTP Grant Committee.

Public Comments

Agenda Item: Thanks to Ernie (Informational)

Presented by: Al LePage

Al LePage presented Ernie with a poster and a heartfelt thanks for the contributions he has made to trails in Oregon.

Agenda Item: 40 Mile Loop (Informational)

Presented by: Barbara Walker; Bob Akers; Mel Huie, Metro

Barbara remembers when the 40 Mile Loop Land Trust first began and the only city that had trails within it's boundary was Eugene. They began with the Marquim Nature Park and have continually advocated for the development of the loop. The system is the most important element. It is a system of trails that connects parks, nature areas, schools and communities.

There are currently 16 gaps.

Bob provided an overview of the route and identified the gaps for the council.



Mel reviewed the 2006 METRO bond measure and how it was assisting in the acquisition and development of some of the gaps. He also focused on the Regional connections being developed.

Agenda Item: City of Sandy (Informational)

Presented by: Nancy Enabnit

The City of Sandy completed it's first Parks Master Plan in 1997. At the time, they only had 5 parks and 20 acres. Now they have 15 parks and 200 acres. She reviewed some the the improvements that they have been making in the parks and outlined the Trickle Creek Trail and other trail connections in the city.

Agenda Item: City of Troutdale (Informational)

Presented by: John Anderson

John discussed the work being completed by the Sandy River Connections Group. It is a group of State, Local, Federal and trail advocacy groups who are focused on improving the connections and recreational opportunities along Sandy River from the Delta up to the Historic Columbia River Highway. This is the Gateway to the Gorge National Scenic Area and needs to have a cohesive look and feel for the recreating public.

Agenda Item: City of Gresham (Informational)

Presented by: Ric Catron, Phil Kidby

Ric and Phil presented an overview of the trails that they would be showing ORTAC this afternoon. The key project is the work and grants that they have received for the Gresham-Fairview Trail.



Field Project Reviews

- Tour of Gresham Trails

End of Meeting, 3:00 PM

Chuck Solin Motioned, Bruce Ronning seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2008