

MINUTES

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 17, 1990
Portland

Members attending: Lewis L. McArthur, Lorna Stickel, Carolyn Wood, Don Adams, Ken Lucas, Jack Mills, John Lundell, Dave Powers.

Members absent: Julie Curtis, Dave Jensen.

Staff attending: Jeanette Kloos, Chet Anderson.

Public attending: Bus Gibson, Mazamas; Doug Gilbertson, P.E.; Michael Heathbrain (sp?), Jim Lasseter; Mike Moshofsky; Brian Litt and Gayle Rothrock, Columbia River Gorge Commission; Jurgen Hess, Forest Service National Scenic Area.

Public comments included interest and concern about reopening the Mosier Twin Tunnels and the Oneonta Tunnel. Bus Gibson was concerned that the possible archeological site known as the Vision Quest site or Mosier Embattlements be protected if the Mosier Tunnels are opened.

Visions

Lorna Stickel presented her version of a vision statement for Section 1 (attached). It was an expansion of the statement that had been sent as background material. (Draft visions for all sections are also attached.) The expansion included a division into two subsections by jurisdiction and elaboration on the type of use the section receives. The CAC agreed that this sort of expansion needs to happen for each of the sections. Lorna Stickel, Lewis L. McArthur and Jeanette Kloos will work together to revise the Multnomah County visions for discussion at the next meeting.

The issues listed on the draft statement were discussed. The CAC agreed that adaptive reuse of historic structures adjacent to the HCRH should be encouraged. A letter will be sent to the Gorge Commission stating this desire. Future draft vision statements will include a list of potential historic sites identified in the 1981 Inventory and any listed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

The CAC agreed to be neutral on additional commercial development along the Sandy River, specifically the garden and restaurant proposed by Troutdale Mayor Sam Cox. If the development occurs, the CAC would want to review the proposal, as it is currently doing for other developments.

In the future, the vision statements will need to be shared and discussed with the jurisdictions involved.

The CAC agreed that no decision was needed on the rockfall area near the Stark Street Bridge. With this and other potential safety problems, including parking, if the potential problem becomes actual and the Highway Division recommends action, then the CAC would review the proposed action.

The CAC discussed the Gorge Commission draft issue paper on "Scenic Resources Objectives Regarding Structural Development". The objective, that "all structural development (except as described in proposed policy direction #1) should be visually subordinate to and blend with its landscape setting" was discussed. Lorna Stickel wondered if some of the current landmark structures would have had difficulty meeting this standard if they were proposed today. Lewis L. McArthur suggested that an alternative wording might be "architecturally compatible with the history and geology of the area". He asked if a permanent design team might be established to review new development. Jurgen Hess said that a design team was one of the options being considered. Don Adams asked if it would be possible to have a special review for those proposed developments that would be near the HCRH, possibly a special design district overlay. The discussion will be continued at a later time.

The CAC discussed section 11, Rowena to The Dalles. John Lundell presented information from The Dalles Riverfront Plan. He suggested that a section 12 was needed to describe the area nearest to The Dalles that is expected to have the most pressure for development. The CAC agreed in principal and the boundary between the two section will be discussed further; possibilities include Tooley Lake, Squally Point or the access to the proposed interpretive center. Gayle Rothrock said that the Gorge Commission is creating a subcommittee that will work on the issue of the land use around the proposed new interchange west of The Dalles. Lewis L. McArthur requested that John Lundell and/or Carolyn Wood be allowed to participate in that discussion, representing the CAC.

The next meeting will include a field trip and further discussion of sections 11 and 12.

Six Year Highway Improvement Plan Priorities

The CAC agreed that Portland Women's Forum is the most appropriate point to change from the single rail to the double rail guardrail.

Jeanette Kloos will draft a letter to Robert N. Bothman and circulate it to the CAC concerning the 6 Year Highway Improvement Program Update priorities. The Toothrock Viaduct Slide Repair is the highest priority for new projects to be added to the HIP.

The guardrail project is currently funded. The Ruckel Creek Access is currently in the development section of the HIP; the CAC would like to see this project advanced in a timely fashion, acknowledging that it will not proceed before the Gorge Management Plan is completed. The CAC requests that the Traffic Management Study receive funding as soon as possible.

Ken Lucas suggested that opening the Oneonta Tunnel be added to the HIP, since it is accessible and in Highway ownership. Lorna Stickel disagreed, thinking that might divert energy from the Mosier Tunnel project. Lewis L. McArthur suggested that opening the tunnel should be part of a larger project to develop the area, including changes in parking and addition of interpretive information. The CAC asked the Forest Service to present information at the next meeting about the current status of the Forest Service proposals at Oneonta. Don Adams and Jeanette Kloos will investigate possible Highway funding for opening Oneonta Tunnel.

Activity Reports

Don Adams said that repair work had been accomplished on the gutter area below Vista House. Normal repairs have been made to handrails. Some guardrocks have been replaced. The wind storm only caused minor blowdown on the Crown Point Highway.

Chet Anderson said that the bridge repair has been postponed until the weather improves, but is expected to be completed by June. Plaques have been replaced at the Memaloose Overlook and the Mosier bridge.

Ken Lucas said that the posts recently placed in the Figure 8 Loop below Crown Point have been removed. If any other method of keeping cars out of this area is proposed, it will be reviewed by the CAC before implementation. Parks is planning to pave the East Mayer windsurfing parking area; if money is left over, a well and landscaping will also be added. Ken Lucas is not too pleased with the development by The Nature Conservancy at the Rowena Crest Overlook. Several others also noted that they thought the mounds were too high for that location. Parks has requested changes and will continue to work with The Nature Conservancy.

Jurgen Hess said the Forest Service will be preparing issue papers for the Special Management Areas (SMA), similar to those prepared by the Gorge Commission for the General Management Areas (GMA). He asked that the CAC review and comment on these. For example, the Forest Service is proposing that "retention" be the standard for new developments within the SMA. As described in the attached memo, this standard is even stricter than the Gorge Commission's "visually subordinate" objective.

The Scenic Corridor Landscape Architect Team has completed the inventory stage of the study and has begun analysis. The CAC work session with the Team is scheduled for January 31 from 9 to 12 in the Forest Service office in Hood River.

Jurgen Hess also described the proposed signing contract, which has been advertized and will be awarded soon. This contract will propose a graphics design system for all signs in the Scenic Area. It will review the logo for the HCRH. At least two sessions will be held with the contractor where people will be able to review and comment on the results of the contract. Lewis L. McArthur said that a graphic design system should be developed for the whole state. Jurgen Hess said that Tourism and Highways are looking as such a system.

Brian Litt said that the January 22 Gorge Commission meeting (starting at 2 rather than 1) will include a discussion of the commercial policies. He presented the CAC with copies of a discussion paper on scenic resource policies, which includes four alternative approaches (attached). He requested written comments from the CAC by February 14. Comments can be sent to Jeanette Kloos. Brian Litt also distributed a memo concerning study of potential recreation sites (attached) which will be discussed at the January 25 meeting.

Lewis L. McArthur said that he thought the Mosier Tunnel area should be designated open space and not public recreation or agriculture. Brian Litt said that the comments from the CAC had been received and all comments will be considered when the preliminary Land Use designations are revised. He envisions at least two more opportunities to comment on the proposed designations before they are adopted. Lorna Stickel asked if the area could be change from GMA to SMA. Brian Litt said that would be difficult, since there is no nearby SMA that could be expanded; a new SMA would need to be created. Lorna Stickel also suggested that the Mosier Tunnel area should be Recreation Intensity Zone 2 rather than 1, since picnic tables are proposed and a trailhead would be needed at either end. The CAC agree that another letter to the Gorge Commission recommending this should be sent.

Several members expressed frustration with the lack of progress on acquiring the land in the Mosier Tunnel area. Suggestions for possible future action included political contact with the Vershingles and discussion of easements.

Jeanette Kloos asked if a subcommittee could be formed to work on the 75th Anniversary celebration. Lorna Stickel suggested that a Blue Ribbon Panel should be appointed. The CAC agreed that a letter be sent to Robert Bothman requesting such a panel, suggesting potential members such as Nancy Russell (Friends of the Columbia Gorge), John Yeon, William Tramosch (Historical Society), and a representative from AAA. Possible honored guests

might include descendants of Lancaster and others instrumental in the construction of the HCRH.

The CAC discussed the two rock crushing proposals in Wasco County. Information on the proposals and the letters that have been sent are attached. The CAC asked that they be kept informed of the Commission action on the Marick proposal.

The CAC received an invitation to comment on Seattle's solid waste disposal plans. The CAC agreed that a letter should be sent to Seattle, stating that, if Arlington was the selected site, the CAC would be concerned with selection of trucks and would endorse use of trains as the mode of transportation.

The next meeting of the CAC will be in The Dalles, March 7. There will also be a working session on January 31 from 9 to 12 in Hood River.