

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes
December 12, 1990
Airport Shilo Inn, Portland

Members Present: Lewis L. McArthur, Chairman; Dave Jensen; Ken Jernstedt; Carolyn Wood; John Lundell; Jack Wiles; Mark Hess substituted for Lorna Stickel; Julie Curtis (afternoon session only).

Members Absent: Don Adams.

Staff Present: Jeanette Kloos; Ken Allmer and William Whitacre, District 9; Gary Kennen, District 2C; Janis Collins.

Public Present: Julia Ferreira and Nancy Russell, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; Mike Kania, Rob Piehl and Mike Ash, U.S. Forest Service; Judy Cluster, McDonalds; Bob Chase, KEX Radio; Shirley Howard, KOPB-FM.

No changes were made in the minutes to the last meeting as circulated.

Public Comment

Julia Ferreira, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, discussed the letter to the editor that had appeared twice in the Oregonian concerning commercial truck usage of the Historic Highway. She said that she is also amazed at the size and the number of trucks that use the highway. Jeanette Kloos said that limiting the size of vehicles was one option being explored in the Traffic Management Study, due to be completed late this spring. Julia Ferreira also commented on the lack of a sign for Mitchell Point. It is difficult to give directions to this exit when there is not sign. (Note: a sign is proposed in the I-84 sign project.) Julia Ferreira is in charge of organizing the Hiking Weekend. All information about hikes is needed by January 31. Copies of the Hike Leader Application forms were distributed (attached).

Nancy Russell agreed that a sign is needed at Mitchell Point. She suggested that it should say "Mitchell Point" rather than the names of the State Parks that can be accessed from the parking lot (Vincent Lausmann, Seneca Fouts and Wygant). Nancy Russell also passed on information about Marjorie Bevlin, daughter of John Elliott. Mrs. Bevlin has pictures of the Historic Highway while it was under construction. Additional research is needed into Mrs. Bevlin's claim that Elliott, not Lancaster, designed the Mitchell Point Tunnel.

Nancy Russell is concerned that the Bryant Quarry is getting worse every day. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge advocate that the 1987 Study be included in the Draft Management Plan for the Special Management Areas with priority for funding the Hood River to Mosier connection project. The Friends are concerned about the feasibility study being conducted for the Governor's Office by State Parks for Squally Point. The Friends prefer a recreation zone of 2 (rather than 4) for this area, with the Tooley Lake area as a wildlife area.

Ken Allmer said that a meeting was planned for December 20 from 1:30 to 3 at Hood River to review the results of the preliminary feasibility study. The Governor and Wasco County support development of a windsurfing area. Jack Wiles said that many constraints had already been found at the site and no decision has yet been made.

Judy Cluster works at the McDonald's in Troutdale. They had so many requests for information about and directions to the Historic Highway that they developed a brochure (attached) and high school students made a display. They are interested in becoming involved with the 75th Anniversary celebration as a potential sponsor.

75th Anniversary Celebration

Lewis McArthur presented information from the Historic Preservation League of Oregon for the map of the HCRH. Developing the map itself was estimated at \$8,370, with printing costs ranging from \$7,368 to \$17,046 depending on the number of copies ordered. Jack Wiles asked who would have the copyright to the map; he will investigate. The 1991 Highway Map will all be computer generated and the HPLO map will use the same base information. The 1991 Highway Map will include some mention of the 75th Anniversary of the HCRH. Ken Jernstedt asked if any information will be included about the Washington side of the Gorge. McArthur said that prominent sites such as Cape Horn would be included. The CAC voted unanimously for McArthur to proceed with planning with the HPLO for the map. Mark Hess and Jack Wiles will work with McArthur and the HPLO.

Nancy Russell said the Friends of the Columbia Gorge audio tape tour includes a map. The Friends are aggressively selling the tour at a reduced price. It includes both sides of the Gorge.

Lewis McArthur spoke with Oregon Public Broadcasting about the video proposal. They will not have any specific proposal until the first of the year, when their staffing level has been determined. OPB believes they can produce a 1/2 to 1 hour documentary for \$10-12,000. The video will include original development, existing conditions, and future projects. Carolyn Wood suggested that we ask the events manager for other suggestions for possible producers, in case OPB is not able to do the work. Ted Burney, ODOT's video person, is filming some current condition footage, where possible volunteer or highway projects may change the condition before June. Mike Kania will send a list of photo sites (attached).

Oregon Historical Society is interested in doing the traveling display. An old baggage car is available; UPRR has previously moved this car without charge, when another exhibit was inside. Use of the baggage car would eliminate the space problems at small local historical museums. The display will be design so that it can fit in the baggage car, and also in permanent cases, for truck hauling. About 45 pictures could be included (50% more than at Vista House). 10-12 pages of text would be included. They believe they will be able to do this within the \$10,000 previously estimated. John Lundell asked where it would be housed when not on display? Carolyn Wood said that Maryhill Museum should be contacted as a source of pictures and information. She will request that they emphasize the HCRH next year and request a catalogue of pictures. The CAC requested that McArthur continue discussions with the Oregon Historical Society on the display. Jack Wiles said that Bob True is working on the hiking segment of the Celebration. His list was given to Julia Ferreira. She said that she did not like the idea of a separate section for the HCRH related hikes, but that highlighting with an asterisk or something was a good idea.

Dave Jensen said that not much had been done about the antique car rally since the last meeting. The problem will probably be limiting the number of vehicles, not attracting them.

Mark Hess will ask Lorna Stickel about progress on a bicycle activity.

John Lundell said that no progress had been made on determining the scope of the activities at the eastern end. The owners of the Mayerdale house have not been contacted. Berta Youtie has not

been contacted. (Note: Jeanette Kloos contacted her (963-4907) 12/26/90. The Nature Conservancy is quite interested in having the Robert Ellis memorial plaque dedicated on June 16.)

Don Adams was not in attendance to give a report on structures. Jeanette Kloos noted that Dwight Smith will not be able to help on this topic.

Ken Jernstedt asked about liability insurance. Ken Allmer said that the Highway Division is normally self insured and requests a liability waiver from people using the highway. Jeanette Kloos will inquire further about liability. McArthur noted that warnings will be needed on maps and at trailheads that rockfalls do occur, especially during winter, and that trails can be slippery.

Priorities for Funding

The Forest Service National Scenic Area staff has requested a listing of projects in order of priority for possible funding with the \$10 million recreation funds. Lewis McArthur passed out his list of HCRH connection projects (attached). The best available estimated costs are in the right margin. McArthur noted that some of these are not accurate, having been prepared with very little investigation. He requested that each CAC member rank the projects and return to Jeanette for tabulation before the next meeting.

The highest priority is the Mosier Twin Tunnel project. McArthur may approach the legislature to see if a resolution can be passed recommending that ODOT acquire all of the original right-of-way currently in private ownership. Ken Jernstedt will help with this effort.

Cascade Locks Motel Proposal

Jeanette Kloos requested the recommendation of the CAC on a proposal for development of a motel east of the Charburger in Cascade Locks. The latest drawing received by District 2C included use of highway right-of-way for parking. While there is currently little delineation of the parking area from the travelway, the proposal would provide a landscaped divider. The District rejected the proposal and requested a traffic study. Options include downsizing the proposal so that adequate parking can be provided on private land; leasing the highway land; and beginning the process to determine if any of the area is excess property (beyond the needs of the Highway Division). Mark Hess said that there are safety and aesthetic advantages to delineating the highway. He noted that 2 1/2 feet is too narrow for planting trees, and that the five foot area is also minimal. Carolyn Wood suggested that it would make some sense to combine the two landscape areas. She asked if there were any other trees along this section of the highway. She also said ODOT may want to keep access to the portion of the HCRH under the Bridge of the Gods. Jack Wiles asked if a bike lane might be desirable in the future. The CAC unanimously approved a motion to approve the concept, but to request an opportunity to review landscaping plans and the location of the curb. The next meeting will be in Cascade Locks, providing the opportunity to review the proposal on the ground.

Activity Reports

Gary Kennen said that the two-rail guardrail had successfully passed the heavy vehicle portion of the crash test. The light vehicle test would be about the beginning of the year. District 2C crews will begin setting the replacement mileposts as work loads permit. The Stark Street Slide cleanup is complete and cost \$550,000. The concrete barrier will remain in place for one year to see if additional sluffing occurs. If not, it would be removed. The single wooden guardrail contract is completed. There have been no accidents or vandalism thus far. Access questions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ken Allmer said that the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee had been formed for the Chenoweth Interchange project. His crews will also begin placing the concrete mileposts, but the ones for the eastern end are at the bottom of the pile. His crews indicated that they thought they could remove the car and other garbage at the Dry Canyon bridge within a month.

Jack Wiles said that he had reviewed the contract with The Nature Conservancy for Rowena Crest landscaping. The pea gravel proposed for the trails would not be handicapped accessible and he requested a different surface. Curb cuts would be needed for wheelchairs. He hoped to get the Wyeth work release crew to do the perimeter wall. McArthur requested that the proposal for the wall be reviewed by the CAC. The Crates Point (Squally Point) feasibility study is basically a resource mapping effort requested by the Governor's office.

Mike Kania told the CAC about the progress on the signing contract. The contractor is developing a unique system for the National Scenic Area that includes octagonal posts (simulating basalt) and an arched top on the signs. The latest proposal for the HCRH sign was passed around (attached). Someone asked what the "30" signified. While the Mosier- The Dalles Highway is currently US 30, other portions of the HCRH are not. McArthur asked if the US 30 or Old US 30 designation could be placed on all the HCRH. Ken Allmer noted that a meeting is needed between the Forest Service and Highway Division to work out differences concerning backs of signs and posts, etc. Dave Jensen noted that he did not like anything about the proposed HCRH sign.

Brian Litt did not attend, but Mike Kania noted that the Draft Management Plan for the General Management Areas will be published later in December. Jeanette Kloos passed out the list of public meetings and hearings on the Gorge Commission plan.

Jeanette Kloos asked the CAC for their recommendation on the list of projects prepared by Clair Kuiper. She noted that two projects would change the railings on the two Oneonta Bridges. The CAC recommended that a letter be written to Kuiper recommending that he proceed with all of the projects except the two Oneonta bridges and other projects previously discussed.

There were no comments on the recent development reviews in Rowena.

There were no additional comments on the Draft Management Plan for the Special Management Areas.

The CAC went into executive session to choose an event manager. Northwest Strategies was selected.

Attachments

Hike Leader Application

McDonald's brochure

Visual Monitoring Points

HCRH Connection Projects

HCRH Sign proposal