

I-5 WRB Art & Design Teams Meeting #4a—Bundle 3
Monday, November 9
ODOT McLane Conference Room
644 A Street, Springfield
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Trevor Taylor, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space; Chris Henry, City of Eugene Transportation Planning; Greg Hyde, Joel Miller, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District; John Rose, Scott Wylie, Design Enhancement Panel; David Lewis, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Staff: Don Kahle, Facilitator; Megan Banks; Douglas Beauchamp; Larry Fox, Justin Lanphear

Welcome

Don welcomed the group and turned the agenda over to Tulsi.

Restoration

Tulsi asked about the City of Eugene's long-term maintenance plans for the Bundle 3 area. Trevor responded that they have no budget right now; any funding would come out of the operating budget. He said that ODOT would be maintaining the riparian forest area as required by their permitting. Eugene will continue to maintain the riverfront area.

Trevor stated that the City does not have quantitative goals for restoration of the prairie; they are more qualitative and include turning the prairie into native prairie with nectar species and more forbs. He noted that they are mowing for shrub management; can't burn that area and want to keep woody species, such as blackberries, down. Eugene also mows a 3' buffer along the bike paths but does not mow the whole site. In a response to a question from Tulsi, he said that they typically mow in late fall to avoid late nesting birds and after native plants have gone to seed.

Tulsi asked about the thin cap over the landfill and any concerns about the matriculation of chemicals. Trevor responded that when Lane County transferred ownership of the landfill to Eugene, it kept liability of the landfill. Eugene works on restoration on the surface only; its only jurisdiction is managing plant communities on top. DEQ has reported that the wells out there are within allowable standards. Tulsi asked if a base was needed, such as phyto-capping, in order to do any planting. She asked if there was a concern about puncturing the cap. Trevor responded that he did not anticipate that different plant species than were already proposed and existing would be planted. Justin added that leaf mulch may not be allowed in a jurisdictional wetland, although he was not sure if leaf mulch counts as fill. He noted that it is difficult to determine the cap depth since it varies throughout the landfill.

Larry said that Dan Hurley of Lane County Waste Management Division had said that it is likely most of the very toxic elements have leached out by this point. Trevor added that there was supposed to be a chemical depot in one corner as opposed to being spread out over the site. He noted that the bundle 3 team should be aware of what to do if planting with community members. It is beneficial that the area has stayed prairie; poor soil conditions have helped since natives are likely to do well in poor soils.

Justin said he would post the landfill thickness report for the ADTs on the OBEC ftp site.

Tulsi asked about the east and west sides north of canoe canal. Justin responded that those areas were outside the project area. Larry added while we that can't go into areas that aren't part of the project, it doesn't mean it can't be part of the master planning process. Tulsi agreed. Justin said having that type of information would help when seeking grants.

Justin explained that the east side of I-5 would include a 40' wide "table" area where the former road will be removed.

Greg said that if the plant list was being changed, be sure that the intent of the mix was not compromised. Justin noted that the mix would need buy-off from both parks departments.

The group discussed the visibility of the prairie area from I-5 as well as Franklin. Justin added that there is a forest area along the west side of I-5 on the east side of the prairie.

Greg said he was concerned with the term "master plan" and suggested referring to the "recommendations" that may come out of this process.

Trevor described the plans that affect the park, including: the *East Alton Baker Park Plan*, the master plan that was adopted by the Eugene City Council and Willamalane; the *Whilamut Natural Area Restoration Plan* (not adopted) and the *Eastgate Woodlands Restoration Plan* (not adopted). Trevor confirmed that none of these three plans conflict with one another.

Douglas reminded the group to be sure the bundle 1 ADT is aware of the east side "table" and visibility. Don suggested there might be a mirror affect with the 40' table and 4' path.

Betsy asked about the ODOT railing on the bridge. She also asked if the canoe canal railing had to meet Code. The group confirmed 4" maximum openings in the railing and between 54" and 42" tall.

It was clarified that there would be 8' tall concrete along the back of the arch.

Betsy asked if there were any recommendations on slope paving. Trevor thought color and artistic placing of rocks would be appropriate. The slope is very steep and would be hard to sleep on. It was agreed that it would be better to check in once some conceptual design was done.

Tulsi asked Trevor about the budget split between restoration and art. Trevor responded that the focus should be on the experience passing under the bridges. Eugene can do the restoration on its own. He encouraged pieces that were thematic and accomplish the theme.

The group discussed public and special interests, such as the CPC, City of Eugene, Willamalane, etc.

Don asked if there were best practices on other projects that might apply here. Trevor said he was a restoration specialist and that Philip Richardson, Eugene Parks Planning, would have great information for the ADT. He encouraged the bundle 3 ADT to talk to Philip. Tulsi said she will get in touch with Philip directly.

Greg said there are definitely best practice ideas out there. He thinks it is excellent that the ADTs are dealing with the undersides. He is not sure how to address the restoration-art split,

especially since it relates more to the Eugene side of the park. He believes the mission is aesthetic and art enhancements as opposed to “gardening.”

Don asked about starting something somewhere, such as native plants. Trevor responded that there is a native plant nursery in Alton Baker Park and this might be a good place to use those plants. Could be a good keyhole to begin with—an anchor for the area with a vision that complements this area.

Larry noted that at the October 22 work session, Sally Nunn of the CPC observed that a Camas field would only be visible at certain times of the year and she did not necessarily support the idea. Tulsi noted that there were challenges dealing with the priorities of the CPC. Greg added that for the CPC, the public and users were secondary and the land was primary. He said that Willamalane and Eugene end up representing the public.

Larry noted that there was already a robust restoration budget and planning that had been done, and that would be implemented with the project. He added that he has a meeting next Tuesday with the contractor and landscape subcontractor. Tulsi asked Justin for an estimate on how much restoration was already been done. Justin clarified that the only areas being restored are the areas being disturbed by the project. When the land use permits were submitted early on, they had to guess about disturbed areas and did so conservatively. He added that there were large opportunity areas for community involvement.

Scott Wylie said that he had come as an observer. He was hoping to stand back after all three bundle meetings and be focused but with peripheral vision. He sees relationships within WRB “world.”

Betsy asked Megan her role and she responded that she operates in the background. She also facilitates the public involvement realm and keeps ODOT in the loop. She added that while the larger community will want to provide input, she understands the tight timelines for the ADTs.

Douglas said that in response to last Saturday’s meeting, statements about recognizing the Kalapuya were going beyond bundle 3. This is somewhat of a concern to him. Tulsi added that she was not sure how much she should involve Esther. Larry noted that at the ground breaking, Esther had talked about the entire history, not just the Kalapuya.

David Lewis arrived and shared that he had thought about telling a new story for a while. He thought a layered interpretation for the site would be good. Restoration and rebirth of the Tribes’ could be a current story to learn from for the Tribes themselves as well as others—the “were” and the “are.” Tulsi added that Esther had mentioned historic figures being brought forward to the present.

David said that a Eugene-focus might be good; the site would be a great place for it. Don asked if this would build upon the Talking Stones. David said that the rebirth of the language is important, particularly since the Kalapuya language is now extinct. Tulsi asked about Chinook jargon and Kalapuya language. David explained that Chinook jargon was the common vernacular for a large area (Canada to California). He cautioned using Chinook as a focus because Kalapuya was so important to the area.

Grand Ronde Interpretation

David said that the partners are excited about the interpretive work that the Grand Ronde has been working on but that funding is lacking. Right now there are four or five partners who are working towards a final project with the Grand Ronde. David is working on themes and concepts right now, as well as the poster that will be part of all the Grand Ronde signs. The first Grand Ronde interpretive signs will be placed at the U.S. Forest Service office in Sweet Home with others at Champoeg State Park and the Willamette Mission. There is a meeting next week as to what the sign will be. Visuals will be worked on next week and could be shared with the ADTs. Don noted that this was particularly important for bundle 2.

Greg stated that more interpretation could be placed on the site later.

Larry asked how the decision was made to move the interpretive elements to bundle 2. John said that there weren't any notes from the unstaffed DEP meetings but it was discussed there. Scott added that they had tiptoed around the idea of interpretation and left it open for the ADTs to explore. The DEP had allowed for connections to be made as they surface. John added that we were getting the message that parks didn't want anything to maintain.

Larry said that ODOT committed to installing the Grand Ronde interpretative sign. ODOT also has an obligation to SHPO regarding mill race interpretation.

Don said that the ADTs could work with the Grand Ronde to design what they have developed and perhaps the Grande Ronde could fund it. He clarified that the interpretive signs are part of bundle 2 as described on the matrix.

David said the Kalapuya calendar could be brought forward. He will give a copy to the ADTs. He explained it could be a huge educational piece. It revolves around the Camas harvest and is a bridge to the lifecycle of the Kalapuya. It would also enhance other resources in the park. David noted that the Kalapuya had a three-year cycle of burning.

John asked and David responded that the Molallas operated throughout the Valley to the Cascades. There were relationships between the Molallas and the Kalapuya since the Molallas had trade routes along the current Pacific Crest Trail and trading centers were likely set up in Eugene between the Molallas and the Kalapuya.

Tulsi asked if there was a local resource for basket weaving patterns. David said that finding resources was particularly challenging in this area: 1) the patterns were typically more subtle and 2) Oregon tribes were somewhat ignored by anthropologists. However, David will get some examples to Tulsi.

Greg mentioned that when Sunset Park in Corvallis was revitalized, they did some basket weaving patterns.

Tulsi confirmed that David and Esther would be available to review some of the bundle 3 design elements.

Betsy asked David what he would like to see. He responded that he thought things were good in the park, in particular in bringing back cultural elements. On a trip to New Zealand, he had noticed that the Maori culture had been integrated into the modern day culture. He would like to see that here because it is such a big part of the history of the area. Make them part of who we are and bring them back to visibility. Someone offered a "it's not only about you" in reference to todays culture and inhabitants.

Don asked about the intangibles that were traded at trade centers. David responded that languages, for example, were traded. That's where the Chinook jargon came from. Information and things that were unique to the area were traded. He added that in his 2001 research of the word "Oregon," the origin could be "oolugane," which was the name of the smelt grease that was traded from the coast to the interior and had many uses. A trade network existed across the U.S. for a long time.

Douglas suggested we recall that the river runs through it—before bridges or roads. Remember it beyond crossings. David added that it was the crossing of highways—the river and road. He noted that the river canoes that were used in the Willamette were very shallow and easy to turn. John asked about canoes as ceremonial or working. David responded that it was hard to tell because the canoes were pretty beat up.

Tulsi asked if there were any other images or motifs. David reiterated that Camas was a very important motif for the area. He described Camas ovens, which were made out of rock piles. Tulsi added that there were rock piles already for lizard habitat. David said that ODOT had found Camas ovens on another project and the state historical museum probably has photos, etc. David said he also has photos. He added that there was a "Kalapuya point," which was a spear tip specific to this area.

John and David discussed the more recent book "The World of Kalapuya," although David thought "The Kalapuyans" was probably more comprehensive.

Douglas asked what do we see as the identity of the Tribal people who live here now; how do they want to be seen? David responded that it was not controlled now. Sometimes it is just a few individuals carrying things on. Would like to make people more interested in their heritage as well as sharing it with the public. Would like to see people take responsibility and ownership for the area and heritage.

Don asked if there were best practices from other areas. David said there were stories told by the landscape. This would be one big feature if we could tell a comprehensive story. Tulsi asked how this could be accomplished within the timeframe given. David thought it was definitely do-able.

Douglas suggested keeping the theme in mind and seeing how it can be developed as a story. David added that it is important to keep it as a story since that is a very native concept.

Tulsi noted that it was a passage to history and the future. Bundle 3 as restoration and rebirth. She asked is she should send story-making ideas to David and Esther. David said there could be a more focused session with himself, Esther and others about this.

Scott asked if the story design schedule had to blend with the ADTs design schedule. David thought not.

Follow-up and Action Items

- Justin will post the landfill thickness report.
- Tulsi will call Philip Richardson, Eugene Parks Planning.
- David will give a copy of the Kalapuya calendar to the ADTs.

- David will get some basket weaving patterns examples to Tulsi.

November 9, 2009 Handouts:

- *Agenda (Don)*

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