

Summary – CAG^{#29} / PDT^{#28}

Community Advisory Group / Project Development Team I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project

March 11, 2011 - 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

McLane Conference Room, Springfield ODOT Offices (644 A Street)

ATTENDANCE

CAG Members

- Charles Biggs – Citizen Planning Committee for Whilamut Natural Area (CAG Alternate)
- Lauri Holts – Eugene Parks and Open Space Division
- David Sonnichsen – Fairmount Neighbors

PDT Members

- Molly Cary – ODOT Region 2
- Chris Henry – City of Eugene
- Al Heyn – ODOT Region 2
- Drake McKee – ODOT District 5

Resource Team

- Douglas Beauchamp – Arts Consultant
- Sonny Chickering – ODOT Area 5 Manager
- Jeff Firth – Hamilton Construction
- Nichole Hayward – CAWOOD
- John Lively – CAWOOD (Facilitator)
- Suzanne Roberts – OBDP
- Jyll Smith – ODOT Major Projects Branch

Handouts (available at meeting)

- Agenda.
- Design Enhancement Steering Committee recommendation summary.
- Memo from Greenworks.
- Previously reviewed enhancement concepts.
- Design enhancements budget.
- South bank opportunity zones.

WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

John Lively commenced the meeting by recognizing that there were no DESC members present, and a limited number of CAG and PDT members were in attendance; however there were equal numbers of CAG representatives and PDT representatives present. He then added that some committee members previously endorsed the DESC recommendations, knowing that they were unable to attend this meeting. He also confirmed that all four members of the DESC support the recommendations and are members of the

CAG. John confirmed that the committee members present felt comfortable moving forward with meeting, despite small attendance.

DESIGN ACTIVITIES

DESC Recommendation Summary (attached) – John summarized how the DESC reached agreement on the recommendation to the CAG and PDT. The DESC also approved the written summary prepared by John as capturing their recommendation accurately. In regard to Art and Design Team 2, there has been a lot of conversation about what has changed since the design enhancements were approved. Many of the changes are a result of the realignment of the path, such as the remnant columns originally intended for the path under Franklin Boulevard. The original columns were removed, but new columns were identified for use from temporary bridge near new viaduct path. There is an ongoing conversation surrounding the interpretive displays about the historic Eugene Millrace and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde and deciding where those elements will be located on the south bank. Sonny Chickering, ODOT Area 5 Manager, is seeking clarification on interpretive information and expectations on what will be installed. The quantity and locations are still to be defined. The DESC wants information on interpretive locations to be clear to ensure that elements complement each other.

The city of Eugene notified the team of a potential issue of a 100-foot setback from the river, which restricts where enhancements are allowed on the south bank. Since that time, OBEC subconsultant Justin Lanphear, CMGS Landscape Architects, provided clarification and there is a permit that will allow enhancements in that zone. Based on the concerns mentioned, there is limited open space to site all elements with public access and with the interpretive displays. Budget issues were also considered by the DESC since that too has changed since the committees last viewed it. John explained how much the budget decreased based on work and concept development to date.

Douglas Beauchamp, Art Consultant, added that a significant part of the DESC decision was based on the February 4 session with Litus, Greenworks and stakeholders. Following the February 4 meeting OBEC requested that each group submit a proposal including their suggested next steps and detailed budget. That information was presented to the DESC on February 23 for discussion and recommendation. It has been difficult to evaluate the design enhancement budget. It is also not clear if the south bank opportunity zones apply to both design enhancements and interpretive elements. The DESC recommendation is an attempt to bring it all together and make certain all details are clearly understood by all involved.

ADT #2 South bank: Memo from Greenworks (attached) – John addressed the memo from Greenworks that was submitted with their proposal. The memo presented requests that the DESC did not feel the team could comply with. The DESC recommends that Greenworks does not move into the next phase until opportunity zones are confirmed. The presented zones are not clear at this point, but a big step in the right direction. The team also needs to review and evaluate the budget and what reserves may or may not be available, while at the same time move forward with ADT 1. The DESC goal is to present a recommendation to the CAG and PDT on next steps for ADT 2 at a later time.

Chris Henry asked for clarification on the recommendations for the south bank -- would the

south bank work be on hold or cancelled? John confirmed that by agreeing to move forward with the DESC recommendations, no further work would be pursued with Greenworks, but further work on enhancements will be reviewed by the DESC. Chris referenced previous situations with ADT 1 and expressed concern that this situation sounded very similar.

John noted that upon CAG and PDT agreement to next steps, the DESC will then recommend whether to issue a new RFP, work with another design group, or some other action. There are a lot of unknowns to look at, but Chris' observation is correct. John also added that after various discussions with the city of Eugene Public Arts Commission regarding their requirements, it has become apparent the terms *art* and *enhancements* have been used very loosely. If elements are in fact going to be art pieces rather than enhancements, there is a separate set of requirements that will need to be met. Old growth, one of the originally proposed enhancements, presented that issue to the Public Arts Commission, as well as long-term maintenance issues. ODOT is willing to make investments to install pieces, but maintenance will be the responsibility of the appropriate jurisdictions -- ODOT will not maintain them long term.

Chris asked if that also applied to above-deck enhancements. Both John and Drake McKee confirmed that ODOT would maintain the above-deck enhancements. Chris also asked to confirm that the concerns expressed about the old growth piece were about maintenance, not about aesthetic. John relayed that the Public Arts Commission was not enthused about that piece as *art*, which added to the discussion. David Sonnichsen said the discussion also raised concern about the wood used on the old growth piece, which would likely be treated material.

Drake added his understanding that any art piece could not go into the city of Eugene art collection if within that 100-foot setback zone. Chris noted that this information is pertinent, now and in the future. Even on the north bank, there might be pieces that are not *art*, but *enhancements*, which would not require approval from the Public Arts Commission. Chris asked if a sculpture would fit the definition of *art* and Douglas responded not necessarily, using the example of the sculpture commissioned at the Delta Bridge. Drake reiterated that the Public Arts Commission said they have their own rule that they will not adopt artworks into the city's collection if within that 100-foot setback zone. Douglas elaborated that Isaac Marquez from the Public Arts Commission stated that with the intention of saying, unless it had already been approved to be located there. That is exactly what Justin Lanphear worked to include -- it has been approved. The Public Arts Commission has only become active in the past year. There is still gray area in regard to definitions, which makes the situation more complicated. They (the Public Arts Commission) bring a separate set of filters in to define what they consider *art* and *enhancements*.

Douglas noted two suggestions regarding the DESC recommendations for the south bank: 1) set and review a budget, 2) consider the other groups involved, both of which solidify why the south bank should be on hold until further clarification is provided.

John added that the south bank is different from the north bank in many ways, thus much more restrictive. Douglas added that the south bank does not have a citizen voice, which is a big difference from the north bank and stewardship role of the CPC of the Whilamut Natural Area. Lauri Holts commented that even within the city, there are different groups

for different roles and locations, therefore in this instance, the south bank is not a Parks and Open Space issue, but would be a city maintenance issue. Different responsibilities were discussed. John reiterated the amount of discussion surrounding maintenance responsibilities, and also noted that ODOT did set some funds aside to assist with those responsibilities.

Chris identified a large area south and a small area north of the path (south bank) that would still provide room to have something significant installed. John agreed that there are ways to provide great opportunities, but those are the details that still need to be worked out and done with consideration of the interpretive displays.

Chris referred to specific comments in the Greenworks memo that described interactions with stakeholders as unprofessional, sarcastic and hurtful and asked to know more about what happened to make Greenworks feel so strongly. Chris ultimately asked how to move forward if the environment created for those hired is disrespectful.

John explained that after the CAG and PDT adopted the concepts, the DESC was appointed, with the first task to develop criteria for above-deck enhancements. The CAG and PDT agreed for the DESC to review how the criteria might apply to the other ADT concepts. The initial response from the artists on both banks was that they generally felt their pieces would meet the criteria with slight modifications. After the focus groups met, some team members did not feel they could meet those criteria. There was a disagreement early on, with artists defending their work and then an added element of the Public Arts Commission sharing their opinion about specific concepts.

David noted how at the meeting referenced, he did not believe anything occurred that was unprofessional or created an atmosphere of hostility. He added he was surprised to read the way it was characterized in the memo from Greenworks. Drake also agreed with David that he did not feel there were personal attacks during the focus groups. He did sense frustration with the new criteria the DESC recommended. Each artist was instructed to determine if their own art concepts meet the criteria required. The artists had the opportunity to redesign.

John agreed that the memo captures more of the project history, sparked by some people being honest and expressing dislike for certain concepts. Artists have been started and stopped several times, the contract amount for the first round was spent, then minimal funds were released to make necessary revisions.

Douglas recounted almost one year ago when the CAG and PDT approved the concepts conditionally. The DESC has since been working to develop the new criteria and presented that information to the artists for them to respond. The artists wanted to hold focus groups in order to gauge response. That request resulted in the February 4 meeting to listen to concepts and stakeholder feedback. The meeting had been a long time coming and there was a lot of frustration in the waiting process. The memo from Greenworks reflects some disappointment in what they heard, as well as the acceptance that it would be more challenging than they thought. There was a significant amount of disconnect between what they'd hoped for and what was approved.

ADT #3 – Whilamut Natural Area – Chris asked if the relationship with the north bank team is positive at this point. John confirmed that it is. He said there is some frustration, but based on the last meeting, Litus is very positive about the information they received from the CPC for Whilamut Natural Area and have submitted a proposal on how to proceed, which the DESC has approved. The team will continue to ensure that stakeholders are active and want to move forward, and that all groups have weighed in and are on same page. The ADT is ready to sign the next contract and move into final concepts.

Douglas specifically pointed out DESC Recommendation #5, which is to move ahead with ADT 3; Larry is ready to execute the contract to keep things moving. Larry will not do so without CAG and PDT concurrence of the DESC recommendations.

David made a motion to accept the DESC recommendations. Charles Biggs seconded the motion.

Chris asked whether the acceptance of the recommendations is an obligation to figure out budget and other related issues. John clarified the intent is to update the committees as the DESC moves forward and recommends next steps. A complete picture will be brought back to CAG and PDT, including budget, zones, and other information.

Drake wondered how far behind acceptance of the recommendations would put the project and design enhancements.

The current time frame addresses work that needs to be done before the April 29 CAG/PDT meeting. The schedule for ADT 2 will depend on the amount of time the DESC will have to address it before April 29. The DESC will focus on ADT 1 proposals for the next month and OBEC will implement the contract with Litus so they can get started. An update will be provided at the April 29 CAG/PDT meeting. Prior to then, ADT 1 proposals will be received and the public open house will occur. The selection committee will provide ADT 1 recommendations for the April 29 meeting.

Sonny Chickering has had many conversations about the interpretive displays on the south bank and hopes that after the March 28 DESC meeting, he will be able to move forward. Sonny would be surprised if the discussion of design enhancements on the south bank is revisited.

Chris added that he thinks both the city of Springfield and the city of Eugene are interested in reinstating the existing path on the south bank at some point. Chris stated the path provides a critical connection to the south side from Franklin Boulevard. Sonny noted that he wasn't aware of their interest, and Chris added that Dick Upton had been aware.

John believes the DESC wants to set aside money for enhancements on the south bank. Any decision the DESC makes will come back to the CAG and PDT for action.

In response to Drake's timing questions, Douglas said the processes that are under way for ADT 1 have gone fairly smoothly. He's hoping the DESC will look at the ADT 2 budget, by setting aside the Greenworks contract, as being available to put out an RFP for a more

specific enhancement or piece. Using the fine-tuned process that has moved ADT 1 forward should lead to better results.

Drake reiterated Sonny's comment that it may not be readdressed at all. Sonny explained he would like significant and special interpretive displays to highlight those areas, which he foresees could use the majority of space available.

John asked the attending committee members if there was any opposition to accepting the DESC recommendations. There were no objections.

Sonny reviewed the updated design enhancement budget and highlighted a few key items. He explained the \$10,000 deficit for the Pre-Phase 1B design fees resulted from ADT 2 and 3 funds used to revise concepts, which were not originally anticipated. He also noted that the \$131,000 budgeted amount for ADT 2 enhancements could potentially become available for ADT 1 or 3 enhancements. The \$100,000 maintenance fund is intended for both parks, but they still have not agreed to the Intergovernmental Agreement and discussions are moving slowly.

John added that while there are still some unknowns, a decent amount of money is still available. He also confirmed that if anything changes, the committees would be made aware before moving forward.

Lauri Holts requested that John send out an electronic copy of the opportunity zones.

David confirmed that while the city of Eugene may want the path under the new bridge extended to the south side, he is not suggesting it be done immediately. However, he is concerned if it were done after the bridge completion there will not be the opportunity to add art to the finished product. Chris' main point was to a concern about losing that connection for eastbound cyclists. Sonny added that the city of Springfield is extending the new path to the Glenwood intersection. Chris understands the compromise, but hopes that someday the path could be readdressed.

Sonny clarified that it is not a part of this project.

Douglas concluded that final proposals from the five finalists working on ADT 1 contracted in December are due March 15, at which point the selection committee will review them on April 4. All five proposals will be presented at the open house on April 7. The following week the selection committee will finalize a recommendation, which will be sent to the CAG and PDT about a week prior to the April 29 meeting.

John reminded members of the public open house on April 7 and the April 29 CAG/PDT meeting. The April 29 meeting will focus on approval of final concepts for ADT 1 and an update on north bank progress.

NEXT STEPS

- John Lively will email Lauri Holts budget and opportunity zone documents to provide to other Eugene staff.
- John Lively will update the committees regarding ADT 1 proposals.
- Plan for April 7 open house.
- Plan for April 29 CAG/PDT Meeting.