

Minutes of the npGreenway Board Meeting (via Zoom)
March 10, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Lenny Anderson, Jay Bockelman, Pat Jewett, Cynthia Newton, Francie Royce (acting chair), Pam Arden, Steven McClure, Jeff Lang
Guests: Caroline Skinner, Mel Huie

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The January and February 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

No change from last month.

Report on NPNS Insurance Meeting (Jay/Lenny)

They attended a gathering of neighborhood groups where the consensus was that it is good for us to have insurance for liability in case of injury.

Tour with Metro's Mary Nolan (Jeff/Francie/Pat/Jay)

Jeff, Pat, Jay and Francie met MN at Pier Park across the bridge and into Chimney Park. She was not very familiar with the trail but Alan S. said a meeting with him and his boss Lasher (phonetic) Nolan re the Columbia Bridge project is in the works. Nolan said she would be our champion if she understood what we wanted. MN indicated that we would greatly benefit from a young/activist/social justice component in our organization and efforts.

Other Ideas Discussed to Reach Out To/Involve Community

Ideas discussed: go to Roosevelt or Jefferson High this year/Earth Day next year with brochures/bandanas. Also MESO (Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon). We could have a work day along the trail. Also Equity and the Environment works to bring voices of color to environmental effort.

These ideas pointed out two tracks/experiences: one more visioning and one more tangible work type effort. Brain storming on best location for a trash pick up. Peninsula Crossing is too big a project. Chimney Park is rather well-tended. Swan Island may be the best location: needs attention and still safe. The other idea is Decatur Blvd.

Notes from Inter-Agency Meeting (Lenny)

Alan S. Columbia Bridge project not on time and looking for money and now upper level meetings coming. 30% designed and subject to discussions.
If the bridge project goes down, we might be left with an activated ped signal.

Spurlock took a few minutes to remember Ernie Hayes who died of brain cancer.

Lenny asked Robert if some of the \$10 million grant for easements could be used to buy a very small piece of land for this small needed easement. This is a purchase from a business owner.

Alan reported he had only money for design on St. John's Prairie to the viewpoint. Will do his best to get 10% design on the bridge on the other side.

Katie reported on the Record of Decision (ROD) due from DEQ soon. Upland cleanup of the cove and in water should be done at the same time. Time unknown. EPA is holding a meeting tonight (at this same time) to kick off community outreach.

Update on National Park Service Technical Grant (Jeff)

Jeff, Jay and Pam have been working with Jeff's daughter who has been writing. They propose that we focus on connecting 4 parks, Kelly Point, Cathedral, Chimney and St John's Prairie to fit the narrative of the grant which is to build connections and conserve public lands and wildlife habitat. Jeff sent this email to the Board right before the meeting:

We would propose that our Grant application focus on completion of a trail between the 4 Northern parks in the NPG. Connecting Parks: A string of parks that could be connected from Kelley Point Park to Cathedral Park, including Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, Chimney Park, Pier Park, and Baltimore Woods Natural Area. This section focuses on implementation of connecting already developed parks to one another. This encompasses the work already started by Allan for the Columbia Bridge Crossing and the St. John's Prairie section.

The three of us felt that of a number of areas we could focus the Grant on, this "String of Parks Trail," narrative solidly met two goals of the NPS grant program. These goals are:

1. Build healthy communities through parks, trails, and outdoor opportunities:
Improve access to outdoor recreation and park amenities on land and water that support healthy lifestyles for all users
2. Conserve natural lands, rivers, and watersheds:
Strengthen the conservation and stewardship of public lands, waterways, and wildlife habitat.

We need to tackle three problematic challenges to move the String of Parks Trail along.

- a) Columbia Blvd Crossing/Bridge
- b) Slough Crossing
- c) Access trail into Kelly Point Park
- d) Baltimore Woods

The grant will assist in pursuing private fund raising to gain leverage for government funding, researching specific bottle necks like Risk Management issues and collaboration with local community organizations including tribal entities, neighborhood associations and Social Equity groups.

One of the requirements of the NPS grant is that NPG include three letters of reference, from groups that we collaborate with.

We need 3 letters from stakeholders. Mary Nolan can do it. The City can do it. Grande Ronde Tribe, who owns the Falls, would be a good fit to write a letter. Cassie has a connection. Baltimore Woods and 40-mile Loop could also write letters. Friends of Pier Park--Ashenberger is involved. Jordan Schnitzer's name also mentioned.

Jeff and team will polish their ask/vision and will then make the requests.

Randy Gragg former journalist and Parks Foundation is also supportive of our mission.

Update on Rubio Tours

Planned March 22nd at 2:00 p.m. Meet at corner of Charles and James at Pier Park. Cynthia Castro is coming. Francie sent a googlepoll and several can come. Working a lot on commission on planning and sustainability re settlements. She has sent something to trial advocates suggesting that trails be exempt. Francie will send the letter to us so we can review whether we as Board would want to support it.

Next Meeting

April 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Newton

