

Minutes of the npGreenway Board Meeting (via Zoom)
April 14, 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

The Frog Ferry – Caroline Skinner

This river travel mode with several depots is in the planning stages.

Approval of Minutes: The March 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: No change from last month. Pam will speak with Tom after he recovers from surgery. There is a small check from Fred Meyer.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Recap of Tours

On Thursday, April 8, Lenny and Francie toured Cynthia Castro (parks liaison for Commissioner Carmen Rubio) on Decatur which was a beautiful time with blossoms out. Francie diplomatically introduced the idea that Parks staff were being difficult re the Columbia Bridge/overpass project funding.

Metro wants to pass the project back to Parks and come up with the money Metro is short.

Cynthia Castro had been director of the Charles Jordan CC in North Portland prior.

Francie had let Maya know about the tour ahead of time.

Francie had sent an email encouraging Parks to come up with funding but has not heard back.

Lenny notes that the project was joint between Parks and Metro from the get.

Francie may follow up with Brett and/or Maya to see what is going on with that. Brett had responded to Francie's email asking about funding the project which reads:

Hi Francie,

We are looking at all sources, and to first fill the funding gap for the Columbia Blvd bridge, but it's important to note that no decisions have been reached on any of the funding sources. In fact, before we apply for local share, we need to conduct our public engagement, and that will involve you, the nP Greenway group, 40 mile loop, and the public in general.

We would also like Metro's help in securing some of the \$40 million in funds from the Metro bond trails bucket, for trail projects in north Portland. That \$40 M in money really isn't up for use until 2022, we've heard. We will also probably be going after Regional Flexible Funds, with interest letters due later this year, and applications in January or February 2022, I believe.

As you might recall doing segments 1 and 2 together were our focus in prior years and these sections of regional trail in Portland remain a high priority for Parks. Springwater Sellwood gap too.

I hope that helps for tomorrow's meeting.

Kind regards,

Brett

Regional Flex Funds are available for this project—maybe in 2022.

Letters of interest need to go out by the end of this year.

North Portland and the Sellwood gap mile.

Funding sources:

-ODOT money

-Metro bond money

-Flex funds (Parks has to do the application)

Once momentum is built money comes more easily. The commitment from the City and/or agencies helps build that momentum because money has been spent which should then not be wasted.

Lenny spoke with Jason Little in Blumenauer's office in Washington, DC. 202 805 4912.

Jeff suggests embarrass the public sector by raising private funds and then build for ½ the public-estimated cost. Discussion about how public funding Barbara Walker Bridge which crosses Burnside.

Idea to tour Randy Gragg but Jeff reports he is well-aware of the project and a supporter and Randy is currently very busy with reinvigorating downtown with Las Ramblas.

Idea to push Parks and make a list of other folks to approach about funding. Long trail with benefits for folks region-wide. We have 4 new commissioners we might approach.

Originally the Columbia crossing was a signalized light but folks did not like that so it evolved to the crossing that now is being designed.

Idea to talk with Alan Schmidt about how we got to the concept of a bridge v. a signalized crossing.

Update on National Park Service Technical Grant (Jeff)

For a number of reasons, Jay, Pat and Jeff sent a rough draft to folks involved in the grant selection process and they advised that they would organize their team and set a conference call to give them feedback on the draft grant.

Jeff asks that we not share what he sees as a very very rough draft of the grant until it is polished.

Lenny mentions Cassie wants to be involved in the grant more than writing a letter of support.

Parks folks, a regional director and a local Dan Miller, will give the three of them feedback.

Lenny had provided history—there was a question whether it was what the committee needed.

The grant would not provide money but would lift the presence of the npGreenway trail by providing a stamp of approval, so to speak.

Swan Island Trail Update (Lenny)

Zef wrote saying he had sent concept to Mark Lear for funding. Not clear whether Flex Fund list or other funding source. Suggests PBOT is more serious about funding. Adidas has written a letter Aaron can take to Daimler to get them on board and then go to UPS.

Lenny also approached the property owner and there is a possibility of an easement. The Metro property folks may be able to deal with it.

Jay willing to approach PCC. Because of PCC's student population this would have a social justice aspect.

Update on Willamette Cove (Lenny)

Lenny spoke with Cassie today and agreed that npGreenway would sign on to the letter from Portland Harbor Coalition regarding the clean up. Jeff signed obo npGreenway and has been sent. Mary Nolan will have a vote on that.

Separately, Mary Nolan wrote a letter in our support for the National Parks grant. This is unusual and shows her support for us.

Mary had suggested we get a diverse group of folks involved. Jeff will follow up with her to get names and we also can look at Mary's letter which will show a list of names.

E.g. there is an African American woman from back east who started a bike group here.

Update on Lampross Steel Property (Lenny)

Francie sent an email about the property but it is not Lampross anymore. It now is vacant and has a fence. There are campers there now. Francie sent photos to us to ask about it.

Update from Quarterly Trials Meeting on April 14 (Steven)

Willamette Falls project is moving ahead and is Grande Ronde project. Sandra Picara (former ODOT) now leading effort to come up with bike/ped crossing from Or City to Lake O over the river. Not in regional transportation plan yet.

Robert updated on \$40 million trails pot of money—the takeaway is that a public organization, not a private one, needs to apply.

Per the email Parks will apply.

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Newton