

Columbia River Gorge Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016

Maryhill Museum

35 Maryhill Museum Drive, Goldendale, Washington

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gorham Blaine
Bowen Blair
Lynn Burditt
Keith Chamberlain
Lorrie DeKay
Robert Liberty
Carl McNew
Rodger Nichols
Janet Wainwright
Damon Webster

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Bonker
Dan Ericksen
Antone Minthorn

STAFF PRESENT

Nancy Andring, Administrative Analyst
Ray Joseph, Planner
Jeff Litwak, Counsel
Riley Marcus, Klickitat County Planner working with the Gorge Commission
Krystyna Wolniakowski, Interim Executive Director
Katie Skakel, Interim Land Use Planner

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Barney, Casey – Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program
Irish, Sherri
Keister, Larry
Lang, Michael – Friends of the Columbia Gorge
LeVee, Ilene
Pawlitz, Rachel - USFS
Shoal, Robin – USFS
Stover, Dawn

Others were present during the day.

AGENDA

Committee Meetings (9:00 AM)

- Outreach
- Communications

Call to Order and Roll (10:00 AM)

Chair Blair called the meeting to order and Nancy Andring called roll.

Welcome from local officials (10:05 AM)

Colleen Schafroth, Executive Director, Maryhill Museum, welcomed the Commission to Maryhill Museum and provided a brief narrative of the history of the museum.

Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2016 Commission meetings (10:17 AM)

Commissioner Nichols moved to adopt the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Liberty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Opportunity for Treaty Tribe Nations to address Commission (10:18 AM)

As part of the Government to Government consultation process the Commission welcomes input from treaty tribe members on any issue on the agenda and any other matters.

Casey Barney, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program, discussed monitoring projects for cultural resources.

Opportunity for Public Comment (10:20 AM)

The following provided public comment to the Commission on items not listed on the agenda:

- Dawn Stover, northeast of White Salmon – discussed a U.S. Forest Service project involving timber harvest in the Catherine Creek area. Robin Shoal, U.S. Forest Service, responded to Ms. Stover’s concerns. Commissioners Burditt, Liberty, Chamberlain and Wainwright asked questions and discussed the project.
- Michael Lang, Conservation Director of Friends of the Gorge, also discussed the Catherine Creek forest project.

Vital Sign Indicators (10:41 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski and Katie Skakel presented an update on developing indicators for the National Scenic Area in preparation for Management Plan review. (see attachment A) They discussed similar efforts that have been completed in 2015 by the Puget Sound Partnership to assess the “State of the Sound” and Meyer Memorial Trust for the “Willamette River Report Card.”

Break (11:00 AM)

Public Comment (11:17 AM) – Michael Lang, Conservation Director, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, discussed the previous Vital Signs Indicator project.

Vital Sign Indicators (11:23 AM) – Director Wolniakowski continued to present the VSI project to the commission. Questions and discussion from Commissioners Wainwright, Liberty, Webster, Blaine, Burditt and Blair.

Columbia River Gorge Commission Website (11:39 AM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski and Nancy Andring provided a brief overview of our website and potential changes needed to be more useful to the public. The Gorge Commission is seeking suggestions from Commissioners and the public to improve the website design and include new features that would provide additional information. Questions and discussion from Commissioners Dekay, Chamberlain, Nichols, McNew, Blaine, Webster, Wainwright, Liberty and

Blair. Public comments were made from Michael Lang, Friends of the Columbia Gorge - he added that the Friends of the Gorge is in the process of updating their website and suggested options. Ilene LeVee added suggestions for the proposed webpage. Larry Keister suggested that the website focus on the "business" end. Amy Moody and Kris Rainer from Locus Interactive provided comments.

Lunch (12:17PM)

Future Forum (1:06 PM)

Krystyna Wolniakowski provided a brief overview on Future Forum, an initiative of the Commission that was completed in 2008, and discussed next steps for following up to re-engage partners in the National Scenic Area.

Committee Reports (1:16 PM)

Outreach and Communications Committees presented information about the outcomes from the morning discussions, as well as updates from other committees if needed. Commissioner Wainwright and Nichols discussed the outcome of the Marketing Committee meeting. Commissioner Blair commented on the progress. Commissioner Dekay, Chamberlain and McNew reported on the Outreach Committee progress and projects. Discussions from Commissioners Nichols, Blair, Liberty and Chamberlain on the progress of the committee.

Gorge Commission Executive Director's Report (1:34 PM) Director Wolniakowski reported on:

- Recruitment for Principal Planner and GIS/Land Use Planner
- National Forest Foundation, Commissioner Burditt commented on the National Forest Foundation.
- FY 2016 Budget Update – Nancy presented an update of the current budget.
- Draft Letter to Port of Vancouver – The Port of Vancouver was considering whether to extend its lease with Tesoro to construct a facility; several local government partners had sent a joint letter requesting the Port Board deny the extension and asked the Commission to sign the letter too. Commissioners Wainwright, Nichols, Blaine, Chamberlain and Liberty commented on the draft letter. Jeff Litwak provided counsel for the commission.

Commissioner Liberty made a motion to send a letter on Gorge Commission letterhead and a copy of the Commission's resolution. The letter would ask the Port of Vancouver to consider the Commission's resolution as it deliberated on whether to extend the lease. Commissioner Blaine seconded the motion. Commissioners Blair, Nichols, Wainwright, Webster, Burditt, Blaine discussed the letter.

The motion was passed with a 9-0 vote.

National Scenic Area Manager's Report (1:48 PM) Commissioner Burditt reported on:

- Regional review was last week
- Discussed the waterfall corridor HCRH Collaborative and short term solutions
- 100 year anniversary of Eagle Creek
- 100 year anniversary of Historic Columbia River Highway
- Joint exercise between FS and The Dalles County fire on how to prepare for a potential fire from an oil trail.

Other Business (2:26 PM)

- Commissioner Chamberlain discussed adding a tribal member from The State of Washington to the Gorge Commission. Commissioners McNew, Wainwright, Nichols, Burditt and Blair commented on the topic
- Commissioner DeKay discussed a book “King of the Roads”.
- Commissioner McNew discussed his quarterly meeting with Klickitat County. Commissioners DeKay, Blair and Liberty discussed the topic
- Commissioner Liberty discussed his report to Multnomah County Commissioners and presented a book by Samuel Lancaster and a Lewis and Clark Exhibition pamphlet, donated by Ron Eber, formerly of Oregon DLCD,
- Commissioner Wainwright discussed a plan facilitator

Executive Session (2:45 PM)

The Commission held an executive session to discuss Executive Director Annual Performance Review pursuant to Commission Rule 350-11-006(1)(h). No decisions were made in executive session.

Adjourn (2:40 PM)

Approved 5.10.16