

**(NDRC) NEWBERG DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Newberg Public Safety Building - Newberg, Oregon
WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Approved at the March 21, 2006, NDRC Meeting

1. Call to order:

John Bridges called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

2. Roll call:

John Bridges	Candy Collins	John Estrem
Rob Felton	Diane Ferranti	Kristen Horn (arrived late)
Jack Reardon	Lon Wall	Cory Zielsdorf

Staff Present:

David Beam, Economic Development Coordinator/Planner
David King, Recording Secretary

Mayor Robert Andrews and Councilman Jeff Palmer were present in the audience.

3. Meeting Minutes:

<p>MOTION: WALL/REARDON to approve the minutes from October 18, 2006 and December 20, 2006 (The voice vote was unanimous).</p>

4. Public Comments

The two people present prior to the meeting had stepped out momentarily when the meeting began. Their input will be sought later in the meeting.

5. Tourist Train Possibilities

Originally Mr. Matt Simek wanted to commission a study on the tourist train possibility connecting the greater Portland area to the wine country going through Newberg. Mr. Simek has visited with Mr. Bridges, and others on NDRC have reviewed a DVD of Mr. Simek's presentation. Mr. Simek was scheduled to visit with the NDRC members at the January meeting, but it was cancelled due to the inclement weather. Too many questions still linger among the committee members to put forth a recommendation to the City Council for Newberg to assist with the cost of the feasibility study. Apparently, Mr. Simek is trying to raise \$30,000, and has a pledge from the City of McMinnville, assuming the City of Newberg and other benefiting cities will support the feasibility study.

Lon Wall believes that any proposal for coming through Sherwood/Newberg, and the Rex Hill steep grade for railroad tracks, will have to present a plan for dealing with Union Pacific. This railroad company has leased the use of their tracks, but also retains veto power on who uses the tracks. Union Pacific has a long track record of not being cooperative with passenger train usage.

Chair Bridges summarized the prevailing sentiment of NDRC as not wanting to make a recommendation at this time to the City Council as to whether or not the City should help fund the feasibility study. Chair Bridges will also let Mr. Simek know of the NDRC's decision.

*** The two citizens had returned to the room, but neither had items to add to the agenda.

6. Review of 2001 URD Plan (Con't)

Chair Bridges recounted that the president of the Chamber of Commerce has established a Task Force for urban renewal, which is looking for additional members. Jack Reardon has been contacted and he has agreed to serve.

David Beam handed out articles for greater insight into urban renewal efforts.

Chair Bridges briefly explained the sequential steps for bringing land into an URD. If an URD is going to be initiated, it has to be put into motion by City Council. Citizens are invited to participate in the creation of the URD plan, which are usually done with the assistance of a paid consultant. Options are weighed, public input is sought, and then a recommendation is made to City Council. If Newberg goes forward with this, various NDRC members mentioned the importance of learning from past experience.

Cory Zielsdorf talked about the success of Woodburn overcoming a run down strip mall via the use of an URD. He stated he didn't believe the Chamber was the right group to oversee the URD. He is content with them as an independent group, but hesitated in supporting that group to create the URD plan, due to certain people with the chamber benefiting from the recommendation.

David Beam reminded the members that the city must be involved with such a plan.

Chair Bridges added that the Oregon Statute ultimately requires the URD to be formed by a government entity.

Jack Reardon asked if this committee could come up with a possible list of projects. David Beam said a list already exists, which will be made part of the next meeting's agenda.

7. Project Updates:

**** Demonstration Block** John Bridges and Lon Wall met with city officials to discuss the possibility of getting city commitments to constructing the proposed demonstration block.

Mr. Wall found the meeting productive, for the city staff promised to review the plans for the block, and wanted to present the demonstration block project to be included in next years city budget.

John Bridges was able to communicate to the city officials that NDRC is willing to work towards improving the community, but didn't want to fight the very group (the City) that is paid to make the city look better. The city manager has not seen any aesthetic improvements to the downtown area since he has been on the job. Mr. Bennett promised, therefore, to support this issue at the next round of city budget items. John Bridges expected to have a revised budget for the demonstration block by the next meeting.

David Beam referred the members to the handout by Kristin Ramstad (see "A Few Preliminary Thoughts on Newberg's Downtown Streetscape"). He mentioned that he has made many efforts to contact the director of the local bus system to discuss changing the bus people in front of

Critter Cabana, he has not received a response from them. It was suggested that Mr. Beam try to contact Doug Bartlett who oversees YCAP, who also oversees the bus program.

**** Hess Creek Fencing** Rob Felton and John Bridges met with GFU plant engineers and discussed the feasibility of a new fence on the north side of Hwy. 99W at Hess Creek. Once the lateral load of the current chain link fence is determined, then the engineer(s) will be able to assess how to secure the desire to replace that fence with one that is more aesthetically pleasing.

**** First Friday Art Walk Partnership** has created a brochure dispenser. Mr. Bridges did not have a sample. The brochure dispenser was designed by Marcia Mikes. People with access to the Friendsview Manor workshop have agreed to construct the brochure dispenser. Without the drawing present, Chair Bridges drew a sample design on the white board.

End of Side A, Tape 1

More discussion pursued on how much artistic design and color should/could be added to boxes. Obtaining a supply of wood will be easy compared to sourcing the Plexiglas. Vision Plastics in Newberg will be contacted for their knowledge and expertise.

Maintenance issues were brought up as an outcome if wood is predominately a source material as compared to powder coated steel.

**** Gateway Welcome Sign** David Beam will email the preliminary Gateway sign design options to the members. Members were encouraged to provide comments regarding the options via reply email to David Beam.

**** Proposed Donation** Lon Wall had not met with the donor at this point.

8. Other Business

Kris Horn recommended the ODDA conference being held in Astoria in May 2007. There is a flyer on the conference in the handout packet of tonight's meeting.

9. Next Meeting - March 21, 2007

10. Adjourn – 9:01 pm.

Passed by the NDRC Committee of the City of Newberg this 21st day of March 2007.

AYES:

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NO:

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ABSTAIN:

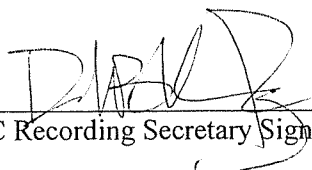
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ABSENT:

4

(list names)

ATTEST:


NDRC Recording Secretary Signature

DAVID B. KING, JR. 21 MAR 07
Print Name Date