

Meeting Minutes
Trolley Trail Art Steering Committee
Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Stringfield Family Park

Intersection of Naef Road and Blanton Street in Oak Grove

Present: Ken Ackerman, Madalaine Bohl, Jan Fowler, Thelma Haggemiller, Gary Michael, Dick Saulsbury, Mel Stout, William Wild, Don Trotter

Staff: Bill Flood, Cheryl Snow, Betsy Bostwick, Pam Girtman, Staci Hammond

I. Committee Chair Don Trotter called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

II. Introductions to People and Process

A. Arts Alliance and Committee

-All Committee members introduced themselves and their representation/connection to the Trolley Trail.

B. Meeting Goals, Process and Ground Rules

-Bill Flood introduced himself, his background, and the ground rules by which the Trolley Trail Art Committee meetings would be run.

-Ground rules for Committee meetings:

- Start on time, end on time
- People's personal stories stay in the room
- Be aware of your own biases. Stay open to many possibilities of artwork.
- Stay on track. Our job is to integrate artwork with the Trail.
- Participate but don't dominate. Bill Flood hired to facilitate this aspect.

-Bill Flood was hired to facilitate, provide technical expertise, and drive the Committee to achieve a final product (a Public Art Element of the Trail Master Plan).

-Committee's role is to advise and guide the process...specifically to ensure that the artwork fits with the nature of the Trail.

III. Trail Background (Progress, Plans, Next Steps)

-Ken Ackerman led an overview of the current process using aerial maps of Trail development. They are currently at 30% of the full design. The construction bidding through the Oregon Department of Transportation will begin in 2009.

-Ken Ackerman discussed that federal funds could only be used for certain trail items. Cheryl Snow added that many items such as signage, benches, landscaping, etc. can actually be part of Trail enhancements/public art.

IV. Images of Current Trail

-Images were shown to provide an understanding of the lay-out of the Trail, of current Trail conditions, and the diversity of the landscape, residential and commercial uses bordering the trail.

V. Images of Public Art Possibilities

-Betsy Bostwick presented a slideshow of current public art along trails and greenways and discussed the different functions that public art can serve:

- Art can educate
- Art can reflect on the surrounding environment
- Art can be representational
- Art can be abstract
- Art can possess elements of humor
- Art can be functional
- Public art can contribute to the sustainability of a location: economic, social and environmental

VI. Public Art Element of the Trolley Trail Master Plan (Roles, Responsibilities, and Schedule)

-The Art Element of the Trolley Trail Master Plan will be a guide for the placement and selection of artwork. The Art Element will include:

- Standards and goals for public artwork
- Recommendations on the functions of artwork
- Key site opportunities

VII. Facilitated Discussion: Nature, Character of the Trail

A. The Importance of the Trolley that ran from Oregon City to Portland

- The Trail utilized the electricity generated at Willamette Falls (Oregon City).
- The Trolley was started as the first long-distance direct current in the country.
- The Trolley was a primary public transportation link between communities.
- The Trolley was also very important for getting around locally (students, for example).
- The end of the Trolley stemmed from the construction of hwy 99, a new bus line, and new gas companies that promoted automobile and bus traffic.

B. Tri-Met Extension to Milwaukie

- If the light rail extended to Milwaukie, it would terminate at Park Avenue
- It would possibly change the section of the Trail between the railroad overpass and Park Avenue.
- The Committee needs to take into account Metro's light-rail (MAX) plans as they solidify for the Milwaukie to Park Avenue segment of the Trail.

C. Trolley Station/Trail Character and Stories

- The Trolley Trail corridor landscape was mostly suburban/farmland.
- People connected at the Trolley stations
- Area around the Trail is now developed, so the Trail is a barrier for the residential neighborhoods from the businesses.
- There is a changing demographic of the Trail users.
- Trail history is no longer readily apparent; public art can interpret and tell the stories.
- The streets that intersect the Trail are named after people who owned the land.
- This is the last generation of individuals who actually rode on the Trolley.
- The Trail is currently very locally oriented.
- There are two schools on the Trail and seven within a ¼ mile of it.

- The demographics of the Trail are more diverse than average.
- There is a tremendous amount of local ownership in the Trail.
- Mel Stout noted that Harper Houf Peterson Righellis was working on a list of potential sites for trail amenities and **Don asked that we get and discuss this list at our next meeting (Action Item).**
- One Committee member added that many older families around the Trail could provide stories about the Trail and may be very interested in its development.
- Many spikes from the Trolley line are still in existence and could possibly be used in future artwork.
- Many Trail-related stores are detailed in a book created by Madalaine Bohl and the Milwaukie Museum.

VIII. **Public Comment**

- Thelma Haggemiller reported on a question that she received from a local resident: “Where is the money coming from for the Trail?”
- Michelle Healy will report fully on this at the next meeting.

IX. **Next Meeting, Next Steps**

A. **Action Items from Discussion**

- ***Betsy Bostwick will put together images of artful way-finding devices.**
- ***Bill will create a demographic page for the area surrounding the Trail.**
- ***Betsy Bostwick will coordinate with Madalaine Bohl for Trolley Books.**
- ***Mel Stout will provide the list of sites along the Trail that need specific elements and enhancements.**
- ***Ken Ackerman will make sure the website is updated and is easily navigable.**
- ***All Committee Members should do Trail research between now and the next meeting: review Trolley Trail website and materials on it, read the materials in provided folders, and read the book from the Milwaukie Museum.**

B. **Next Meeting**

- Meeting dates will be emailed out to Committee Members.