

11 June 2015

To: City of Stevenson, Ben Shumaker, Planning Director
Department of Ecology: Michelle McConnell

From: Scott Keillor, Project Manager; Ethan Spoo, Senior Planner

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**RE: Stevenson Shoreline Master Program Update– Community Vision Workshop
Summary**

INTRODUCTION

The City of Stevenson held a Community Vision workshop on Monday, June 8, 2015, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please see attached sign in sheet and agenda. The meeting was held at the Stevenson Community Library on the ground floor located at 120 Vancouver Avenue in Stevenson. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback from attendees on the public access, shoreline use, recreation, preservation, restoration, and enhancement opportunities along Stevenson's shoreline, as well as acquaint attendees with the purpose and objectives of the shoreline master program update project.

The workshop was organized into three parts:

- Overview presentation: The City and BergerABAM provided an overview presentation regarding the context and purpose of the shoreline master program update.
- Visioning sessions: Using breakout groups, BergerABAM facilitated two concurrent breakout sessions focusing on shoreline development constraints and opportunities for two geographic areas: Downtown/East Stevenson and Rock Creek/Rock Cove.
- Summary Presentations/Findings: Volunteer participants reported back to the entire group on key discussion items and findings from the breakout groups.

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Ben Shumaker, Planning Director introduced the Shoreline Master Program (SMP), noting that many in attendance have been involved in the process over the past few years. He gave a general overview of the SMP progress to date and introduced the consultants.

Scott Keillor and Ethan Spoo provided an overview presentation of the Shoreline Master Program update project, including project background, schedule, explanation of no net loss, and shoreline jurisdiction. Ben Shumaker also presented the results of the shoreline stakeholder interviews conducted by the City and partial results from the inventory and characterization

report. Please see the attached “Shoreline Community Vision Workshop Presentation” for more information on items presented.

VISIONING SESSIONS

Following the overview presentation, the City and BergerABAM facilitated a visioning breakout session with two groups of 7-8 participants each. The sessions asked participants about the public access, shoreline use, preservation, recreation, and restoration opportunities along the City’s shoreline. The visioning sessions focused on two geographic areas: Downtown/East Stevenson and Rock Creek and Rock Cove. The first breakout session lasted for 30 minutes. Participants were also asked to comment on their preferences for the City adopting optional or minimum shoreline jurisdiction. Participants were able to view presentation boards with an aerial photo showing shoreline jurisdiction and optional shoreline jurisdiction relevant to the particular geographic area under discussion.

Following the first breakout session, facilitators switched groups and geographic areas and facilitated a second breakout session for an additional 30 minutes. All participants, thus, had the opportunity to comment on each geographic area of the City. Topics covered in the second breakout session were the same as for the first breakout session.

SUMMARY PRESENTATIONS/FINDINGS

Based on the input received from the two breakout sessions, two volunteer presenters, summarized their group’s key findings and recommendations for all attendees. The BergerABAM facilitators recorded key ideas and noted common themes summarized below for the two geographic areas:

Rock Cove and Rock Creek

Public Access Opportunities

- Participants noted that the City enjoys multiple public access points along its shorelines, but that public access points aren’t always connected.
- Rock Cove needs better shoreline access to the Columbia River waterfront and downtown Stevenson. Preference is for continuous public access along the City’s shoreline, rather than segments of varying styles, improvement levels, and confined to certain points. City should search for opportunities to connect access along the Cove with access along the Columbia River.

Recreational Opportunities

- The existing boat launch on the west side of Rock Cove is in a state of disrepair and needs to be improved. The group would like to see better access for recreational activities including fishing, boating, swimming, and kayaking in Rock Cove.

- Islands in the Cove should be considered for recreational uses such as camping, possibly as a summer camp for youth and Boy Scouts
- The County fairgrounds / park site should include a kayak launch area
- Consider a cable park, which entails a mechanical cable rotation for use by wake boarders
- Stations for accessing fresh water/fountains along the trail routes

Preservation/Restoration Opportunities

- Natural areas should be interspersed with new development along the Cove.
- The Cove should be explored for habitat enhancement opportunities. In particular, participants felt it should undergo “biological extrication” (dredging) for fish/habitat enhancement. Water quality issues in the cove should be addressed.
- In exchange for reducing critical area buffer widths along the Cove to encourage development opportunities, development should enhance/restore the reduced buffers, thereby resulting in no net loss.
- Siltation of the Cove and Creek needs to be addressed in a long-term systematic way that looks at sources of silt and solutions to reduce it.

Shoreline Use Opportunities

- Encourage all-season use of the Cove and adjacent areas
- Explore ways to develop the six-acre County-owned former mill property along the western side of Rock Cove Creek and west of the fairgrounds. This property should be developed with employment and/or service or shopping uses. Participants cited a brew pub as a potential use.

Downtown/Columbia River Waterfront

Public Access Opportunities

- Safety and ease of access to the waterfront should be improved
- There should be a waterfront trail east of Pebble Beach and south of the railroad tracks extending east to the Port-owned property midway between downtown and the cemetery.
- The railroad underpass at Cascade Avenue is narrow and unsafe for pedestrians and should be improved. Improvements should include pedestrian walkway and possible widening to allow two-way traffic. Pedestrian walkway leading from the underpass should connect with Cascade Avenue and there should be a pedestrian crossing at SR 14.
- Explore ways to link waterfront access to the Pacific Crest Trail
- Need better ADA access to the waterfront
- Possibility of footbridge with BNSF rail trestle
- Address pedestrian safety near the rail lines.
- Truck versus recreational access to the waterfront: Russell Avenue needs to be improved to better accommodate both truck and recreational traffic. Truck and recreational traffic may need to be separated.

Recreational Opportunities

- Teo Park needs to have improved park facilities including picnic shelters, barbecue pits, and gazebo. In some cases waterfront access surfaces are gravel and dirt and are eroding and need to be reestablished and new gravel or other surfacing applied.
- Implement ideas in the *Destination Waterfront* concepts for Stevenson Landing including provision of a waterfront amphitheater
- Need gathering spaces at Stevenson landing

Preservation/Recreation Opportunities

- Remove invasive species along the shoreline. Multiple areas contain invasives and are overgrown with Blackberry bushes.
- Remove heritage pilings remaining from Leavens Street terminus with waterfront

Shoreline Use Opportunities

- Port of Skamania County Property/Riverpoint & Tichenor buildings: Participants indicated they would like to see aesthetic improvements for this building more appropriate for waterfront commercial development to encourage shops, restaurants, etc. to locate there. Participants also discussed possibility of comprehensive redevelopment of the site where the Riverpoint & Tichenor buildings are located, including moving the parking upland of the waterfront.
- Residences north of Riverpoint & Tichenor buildings need rehabilitation and aesthetic improvements.
- Redevelopment of Gateway from Highway 14 into Stevenson: remove sinking boat at east/mouth of Rock Cove
- Suggestion for farmers/artisan market on the waterfront to encourage tourists from Stevenson landing to shop and possibly connect with downtown.
- Explore ways to address train noise and conflicts with pedestrians.

Optional Jurisdiction

- Participants were divided on extending jurisdiction to critical areas beyond the 200' minimum shoreline jurisdiction. Some felt more information is necessary. Some felt administrative reviews under the Critical Areas Code were sufficient. Some felt it beneficial to extend the optional jurisdiction to wetlands, but not geologic hazard areas. Some felt it best to include all critical areas in the optional jurisdiction.
- The Planning Commission and Advisory Committee will need to make a decision on these areas as soon as they can.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Scott Keillor thanked participants for their thoughtful input, and indicated that the team will be working on finishing the inventory and characterization as well as policy development over the

coming months. Public input will be gathered throughout the shoreline program development, expected to be obtain local adoption in late 2015. Ben Shumaker acknowledged that the 2016 completion date through the state review process is yet to be determined.

ATTACHMENTS

- Meeting Sign-in Sheet
- Meeting Agenda
- Informational Presentation