

FACTS

GOALS

NEEDS

CONC

WORKSESSION

CITYSCAPE MASTER PLAN
STEVENSON, WASHINGTON

11-19-83

INTRODUCTION

On November 19, 1983 the STEVENSON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION met and conducted a design worksession on the CITYSCAPE OF DOWNTOWN STEVENSON, WASHINGTON.

This report documents the wideranging ideas, topics and dreams for the downtown area generated in that Saturday session. It does not attempt or pretend to be final or complete but acts as a foundation to construct a workable, viable and exciting Cityscape Master Plan.

The worksession centered on three major design directions ;

1. The Court House lawn facing Second Street.
2. The main thoroughfare-Second Street
3. Russell Street and it's connection to the Columbia River

and concluded with the expressed desire and need to incorporate these FACTS, GOALS, NEEDS & CONCEPTS into the evolving Comprehensive Plan for Stevenson.



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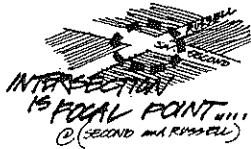
FACTS



Stevenson Washington is located in Skamania County. It lies adjacent to the Columbia River and The Bridge of the Gods.



The Boat Landing located at the end of Russell Street serves as a natural tie between the Columbia River and Downtown Stevenson.



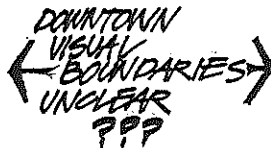
The intersection of Russell and Second streets is the focal point of the Downtown area.



The Court House lawn, located on Second street exists as a southerly sloped, grassy site.



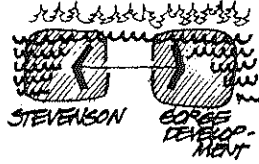
Second street is a busy major thoroughfare. Truck and automobile traffic is common.



The present borders and boundaries of the Downtown are not clear. Sidewalks quickly taper off on either side of the intersection.



Many of the existing shops and stores in the Downtown area are in poor shape. Distant and absent ownership of some the shops is a reason for this.



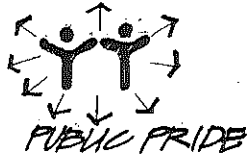
Stevenson is in a position to work with the development of the Columbia Gorge and attract tourism in a attractive and desirable manner.



Stevenson serves a number of areas and communities outside of town, but still in the region.



Funding for any public improvement project will probably have to come from Grants, Donations. Additional tax upon the community will not be acceptable.



The amount of public pride in the Downtown area could be greatly improved.



Any project constructed shall be 'Barrier-Free' and totally accessible to the handicapped.



This report shall work with the Comprehensive Plan established for the city of Stevenson.

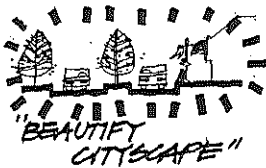
GOALS



The design options and implementations shall orient to the community and region. The constructed areas shall attract community involvement.



The Master Plan shall strive to increase and cater to Tourism in Stevenson and the surrounding areas.



The implementations shall help beautify and unify the Downtown area.



The Master Plan shall strive to increase and cater to the addition of new business activity in the community.



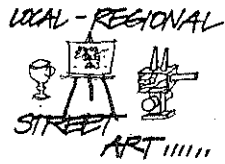
The Master Plan shall develop a 'Palette' of materials and items to be used in the implementation.



Do not develop a particular theme or rigid look to the Cityscape, but incorporate enforceable guidelines & design directions that allow a 'local-regional' character to emerge.



The design shall consider the items that minimize vandalism.



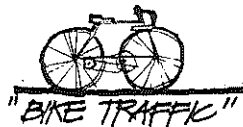
Minimize the maintenance needed on the Cityscape materials, items and assemblies.



The Master Plan shall allow for the use of 'soft' and 'green' textures and plants.



The Master Plan shall allow for the establishment of 'Gateways' into the Downtown area



The Master Plan shall allow for the implementation of Bike traffic

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The Master Plan shall recognize the growing sport of Windsurfing by allowing amenities and services to be oriented towards the Columbia River Gorge sport.



The Master Plan shall allow for positive Nitelife activities that attract the tourist and add funds to the Downtown area.



The Master Plan shall allow for the creating of and display of Local Arts and Crafts.

~~Individual~~
PUBLIC SWIMMING.....

The Master Plan shall allow for the implementation of Public Swimming in a protected area on the river.


"PUBLIC SPEAKING"

The Master Plan shall allow for Public Speaking and Discussions in an organized and pleasant arena.


REDUCE COSTS - LONG TERM

The Master Plan shall seek quality, long-term returns on the initial investment for implementation. The Life Cycle Costs may present a higher initial investment in top materials and assemblies, but will decrease the overall costs for maintenance and operation.

NEEDS

STRENGTHEN
DOWNTOWN
\$\$\$
ECONOMICS!!!!

Downtown Stevenson needs to strengthen it's economics and vitality.


REGIONAL-
CENTER"

The Master Plan shall allow the Downtown area to become a regional shopping and tourist center.

DESIGNATED

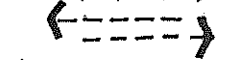
GREENSPACES

The Cityscape needs to develop, designated 'Greenspaces' throughout the Master Plan.

INCREASE

PARKING!!!!

The Master Plan needs to design and formulate new parking systems. Present parking is inadequate with both patrons and employees using the same system on Second street.

STUDY-REVISE

EXIST. TRAFFIC
PATTERNS
(ONE WAY VS. TWO WAY)

The Master Plan needs to study the existing traffic pattern on Russell street.

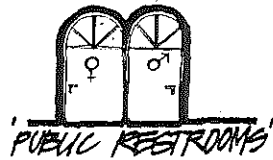

RAIN-WEATHER
PROTECTION

The Cityscape amenities needs to incorporate rain and inclement weather protection for the pedestrian.

SIGNAGE
CONTROL

DOES
EAT
SAVE

The Master Plan needs to organize a 'Signage Control' system for the Downtown area.



The Master Plan needs to provide Public Restroom facilities for the tourist and shopper involved in the Downtown activities.



The Cityscape needs to study the repair and re-design of the sidewalks and pedestrian surfaces in the Downtown area.



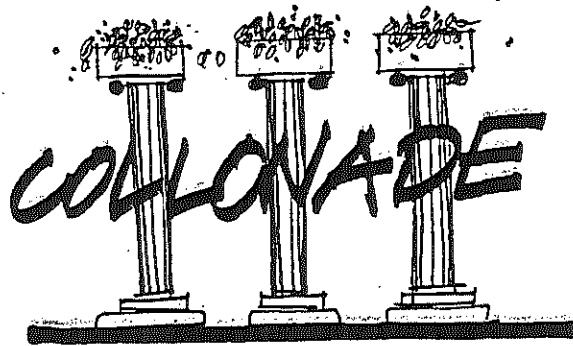
To pursue the many Grants, Donations and misc. funding avenues available to project such as this one and to help organize and manage the operations, a Grant Writer-Project Manager is needed.

CONCEPTS



Develop a multi-used Plaza or Courtyard at the Courthouse lawn area that could be used for a variety of functions such as concerts, public meetings, Downtown fair, 'Saturday Crafts Market,' etc.

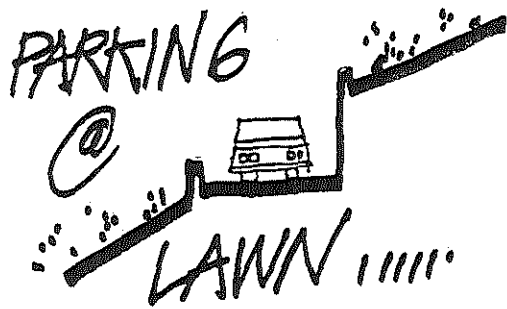
Develop a Community Amphitheater at the Courthouse lawn. This could be incorporated into the multi-purpose Plaza mentioned above or become a separate identity. The Amphitheater would be a terraced and stepped brick paver surface that uses the southern facing slope of the lawn. The stage area could be completely open or offer partial rain protection during bad weather.



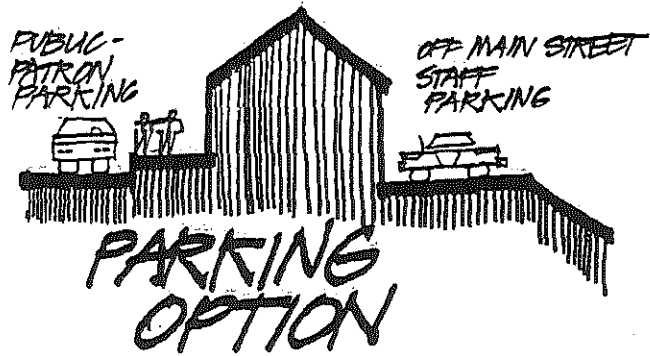
To add a sense of scale and offer some visual buffer and character to the site, a free-standing colonnade could be incorporated into the above mentioned Plaza and Amphitheater.



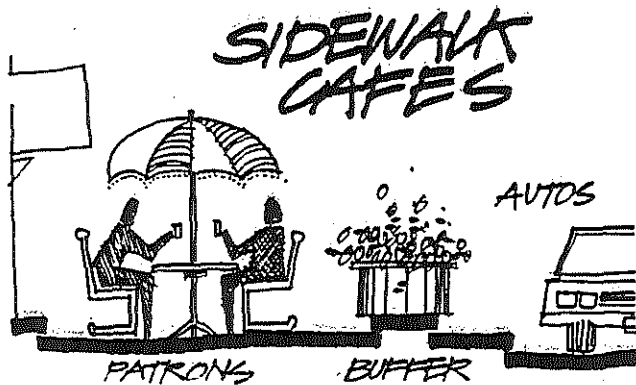
To provide a visual buffer from Second Street and the activities on the Courthouse lawn, a row of deciduous trees could be incorporated. It is important that these trees offer a sense of space to the Plaza and Amphitheater, but do not completely block the view from the street. It is important to allow the pedestrian and motorist to 'peek' through the leaves and see the activities and spaces.



Study the possibility of adding additional parking spaces into the new layout for the Courthouse lawn. This could be either from Russell street or 45° angled stalls off of Second street.



Study the possibility of integrating a parking system that keeps the employee and employer from parking in patron stalls on Second street. The secondary alley to the south of Second street or the acquisition of a parking lot could function as a place to designate strictly for employees and employers of the Downtown shops, stores and businesses.



Develop the potential for 'Sidewalk Cafes' through the Downtown Cityscape. These could be a flexible and portable function that is seasonal. Provide a planter or street furniture buffer between the patron and the automobiles.

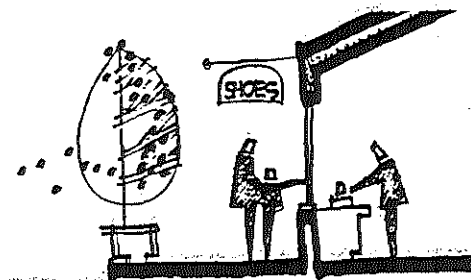


Develop a palette of durable street furniture for the Cityscape. This can include, but not be limited to, street lamps, waterfountains, benches planters and information kiosks.



"RENOVATION"

Encourage the renovation of existing building and structures in the Downtown area.



"SIDEWALK CRAFT SCHOOLS"

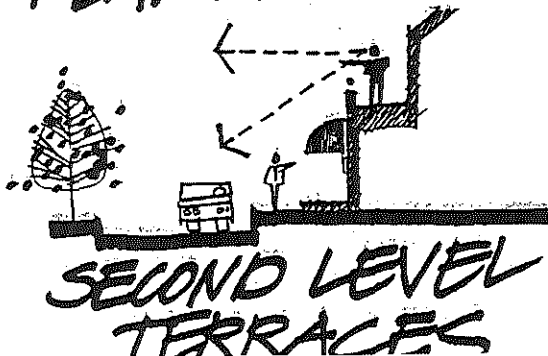
Incorporate the implementation of public telephones throughout the Downtown area.

Encourage the development of Downtown sidewalk craft schools and shops. This can add excitement for the pedestrian to informally view the different trades at work during the stroll through the area.

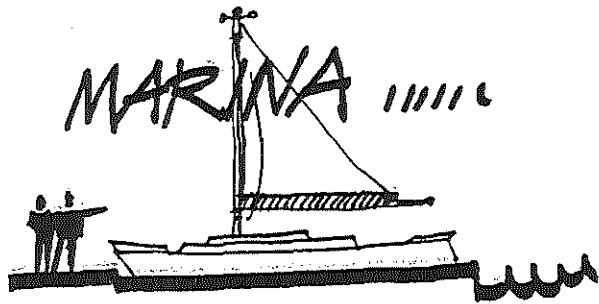
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Study the possibility of connecting the intersection of Second street and Russell street with a water feature. This could be a fountain and a series of slow falling pools and waterfalls down Russell and then recirculated. This feature could add excitement to the child as well as adult and add needed 'life' to the potential of Russell street.



Study the development of second level terraces looking onto Second and Russell streets. This could be a option for restaurants, beer gardens or living spaces.



Study the development of a Marina to attract the growing number of boat users on the Columbia River. This Marina should be capable of allowing high masted sailboats in and offer sufficient protection from the windy and sometimes stormy river.

ROCK CREEK
LAKE
DEVELOP

Study the development of allowing the Rock Creek Lake/Harbour to the west of the Downtown area to be incorporated into a Marina and attraction. Care should be taken to preserve the landscaped shores and present and future wildlife living in the waterway. The present train bridge over the inlet to the Columbia River would have to be revised to allow the sailboats and taller vessels to enter. Also the present depth of the canal may have to be changed. If such a development is considered, care should be taken to design a pedestrian tie to the Downtown area to preserve the interaction with the Cityscape Master Plan.

SUMMARY

A.

Visual, Functional and Economic improvement is needed to inject new 'life' into the existing Downtown Cityscape of Stevenson, Washington. Activity in the Columbia River Gorge will continue to grow in the coming years and Tourism in this region is potential income for the area. Planning and implementation of amenities to attract and hold patrons should be performed now.

B.

The site presently contains amenities, such as the Courthouse lawn, Second Street shops-businesses and Russell Street with it's tie to the Columbia River Boat Landing, that offer tremendous potential for implementing a feasible Cityscape Master Plan.

C.

Since funds for any construction are presently non-existent, the Project should be organized to pursue Federal and State Grants, Donations and other funds outside of the Stevenson tax base. To organize and manage this, a Grant Writer-Project Manager is crucial for the success of the Project. A Master Plan should be developed that allows for the Project to be accomplished in phases that hinge on periodically available funds. The Master Plan is important is ensure that future phases are consistant with the initial FACTS, GOALS, NEEDS and CONCEPTS.

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