

COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE OF DAMASCUS

Date: January 27, 2003

Location: Damascus Assembly of God Church
19070 SE Sunnyside Rd.

Meeting #: 37

Attendees: 23 (see roster for names)

Meeting will be recorded and minutes will be taken to abide by public policy. Any changes to the minutes should be given to the Secretary.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Dee Wescott, Chair, called the meeting to order.

2. Introductions:

There were two people introduced. They were Al and Diana Jacobsen, local residents. Welcome!

3. Action on Minutes for the Meeting of January 13, 2003:

Copies of the minutes were previously sent via regular mail or email. There were no corrections or comments.

Motion to approve minutes of January 13, 2003 made by Dan O'Dell, seconded by Chuck Kisselburg and unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Communications: None

6. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for tonight will be given at the February 3rd meeting.

7. Sub-Committee Reports: None

8. Damascus CPO Report:

Barb Ledbury, Damascus CPO Chair, reported that there have been 2 meetings of the new CPO and another scheduled for this evening. At tonight's meeting, Les Otto will

relate the workings of the Boring CPO as potential guidance for the fledgling Damascus CPO. As always, all are welcome to the meeting.

9. Old Business:

a. “What do we want Damascus to be?”

The vision question is left on the agenda to remind all members to continue to think about it.

b. South Corridor Project

Dee Wescott, Chair, reported that he was approached by a representative of the South Corridor Project and asked if the Committee would like to endorse one of the options developed for improving public transit between Portland and Milwaukie, Clackamas and Oregon City. Dee asked the Committee members whether the group wanted him to testify at the hearing on Wednesday and, if so, which option should he endorse. He explained that he would represent the Committee but that the preference of the Committee would not represent the preference of the community, since no poll or questionnaire has been taken.

After some discussion it was decided that, since it is impossible to determine how each option would affect the Damascus area, there is no way to know which option the community would prefer and the area is not even within TriMet’s service area, a decision of no testimony would be the best course of action.

c. Concept Planning/Oregon Concepts--Sustainability

John Hartsock, Vice Chair, reported that there was not much new to report. The County is still working on a draft of the workplan for the Concept Planning Committee and Oregon Concepts is still working on sending him information on how they can help the Committee. He should hear from both in a week or two.

d. Nominations for Election of Officers—Elections to be held 2/24/03

Dee Wescott stated that elections for all positions will be held at the Annual Meeting on Monday, February 24, 2003 (same place and time as regular meetings). Nominations from the floor for the seven Board positions will still be accepted on that evening and added to the slate of nominees. The current list of nominees is:

Dee Wescott for Chair
John Hartsock for Vice Chair
Joyce Schwer for Secretary
John Fromwiller for Treasurer
Ernie Platt for At-large Board Member
Carl Tuma for At-large Board Member
Robert Hubbard for At-large Board Member

Subcommittees will choose their Chairs on the same night.

e. Articles for Observer/Firebreak

Marty Beaudet reported that there are two articles for the Observer that just need some finishing touches and will be submitted to Julie Wagner, Editor of the Observer, for publication. The first article is entitled “What’s Next for Damascus?”, and was written by Marty. It includes excerpts from an interview with new Executive Officer of Metro, David Bragdon.

The second article was written by Chuck Kisselburg and is a continuation of the “Frequently Asked Questions” column. This installment discusses how taxes in Damascus will be affected by the expansion of the UGB and the possible incorporation of Damascus, and lists a tax comparison for four neighboring towns and a future city of Damascus. He and Marty met with the County Assessor to verify the accuracy of the information. Due to the intricacy of the tax system, this article only scratches the surface of all the tax issues that Damascans will face as growth changes the landscape, both physically and politically.

f. MHEA Grant

Dan O’Dell reported on his quarterly update required for the MHEA grant. He stated that though there is over \$11,000 left of the grant, this would not be enough to complete the financial feasibility study. It could be used to fund some research for service providers and is being used to finance participation in the Firehouse Study Group and various community outreach projects. Dan stated that good use of funds for the current grant would make it easier to obtain the grant in the future.

10. New Business (*Action Item):

Randy Shannon asked that a topic be discussed in a future meeting that he believes will have a huge financial impact on the community and which may be too large for one subcommittee to grapple with alone: the methodology used to determine what is greenspace and who will pay for its purchase, development and maintenance.

He explained that in the 1000 Friends study, 30% of the land in the newly urbanized area of Damascus was recommended to be greenspace and the Small Towns and Greenbelt Concept (STGC) has a similarly high percentage of greenspace, but if this much greenspace is acquired and maintained in the traditional method of using public funds, it would almost definitely be too costly for the citizens to finance. He said a discussion within the Committee, and perhaps with some outside expert input, would be essential to determine a creative solution that might combine private, public and land conservancy resources to not only decide how much land to save as greenspace but how it would be defined and how it would be financed. Another concern was how much land would be left over after the greenspace, Goal 5 and Title 3 requirements were fulfilled.

Possible creative solutions offered were:

- ❖ to zone some greenspace for limited productivity (as in the STGC, greenspaces could also be working farms),
- ❖ to pipe stormwater that currently must be held on site in storage tanks or above ground in ponds or swales to a nearby greenspace and develop a wetland (this allows an entire light industrial/commercial site to be used for employment while satisfying the need for stormwater management and greenspace/wetlands),
- ❖ to use SDC's (system development charges) to pay for acquiring, developing and maintaining greenspaces,
- ❖ to determine more economical ways of building sewer systems and use the savings to finance greenspaces (buy rights of ways along both sides of creeks and use single lines as opposed to double lines, and possible elimination of several pumping stations, as an example),
- ❖ to use a larger percentage of greenspaces for a trail system—they are less expensive to acquire, maintain and require minimal development,
- ❖ to zone some greenspace areas as satisfying two requirements (such as a greenspace also being defined as a buffer between industrial land and residential land).

Though nothing was concretely decided, multiple possibilities were suggested in a short discussion. This bodes well that a future, more in-depth discussion might produce a variety of creative and feasible solutions. Dee added that if the Committee uses the expertise of Oregon Concepts, these issues would most certainly be addressed. Ernie Platt, At-large Board Member, suggested it would be easier to get a grasp on the issues after Metro works through the ESEE (Economic/Social/Environment/Energy) study and works out the details of Goal 5. This would give the Committee a starting point rather than coming up with numbers on our own.

11. Open Agenda:

Greg Dardis, Planning Subcommittee Chair, reported that OMSI is working with Portland State University to develop a new city planning tool which uses a sophisticated GIS to allow people to immediately see what the environmental impact would be of some sort of development, such as a dam, a housing or commercial development, etc., on a computer-generated 3D model of an area. It would show changes in runoff, the effect on streams and other environmental considerations. Greg said he would suggest Damascus be used as the prototype model. He was unsure of the timeline for the project but suggested it would probably be about 2 years. He will obtain more information and keep the Committee informed.

Barb Ledbury wanted to pass on information that she just learned: the Fire Department offers reflective roadside numbers to anyone who asks and at cost. These numbers allow house addresses to be found easily at night and in inclement weather when they are posted at the end of a driveway.

12. Subcommittee Breakout “A” Group Subcommittees:

- a. Public Safety
- b. Public Works
- c. Public Information

13. Executive Session: None

14. Adjournment

Actions Decided:

- 1. There would be no testimony from the Committee at the hearing for the South Corridor Project.

Actions Pending:

- 1. Use of services of Oregon Concepts.
- 2. Discussion of greenspace definition and financing.
- 3. Election of Board members on February 25, 2003.