

COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE OF DAMASCUS

Date: June 2, 2003

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

Meeting #: 54

Attendees: 22 (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:

Dee Wescott introduced newly appointed Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader. One of Commissioner Schrader's focuses is land-use issues and, so, she will be overseeing the growth process of Damascus for the County Commissioner's Office. Dee also introduced Virginia Bowers of Three Rivers Conservancy who was sitting in for Jim Closson (happy birthday, Jim!). Welcome!

3. Action on Minutes of May 5, 2003:

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

Motion to approve minutes of May 5, 2003 made by Mike Hammons, seconded by Dave Rouse and unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment:

Dan O'Dell reported that Barb Ledbury told him Roy, her husband and CFD member, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer a few weeks ago. He had surgery, which was successful, and he is doing well. Barb is optimistic about the prognosis. We're thinking about you, Roy, and hope to see you back causing trouble as soon as possible!

5. Communications:

John Hartsock, Vice Chair, reported on a memo sent by Virginia Bowers of Three Rivers Conservancy that explained that Three Rivers had put together a study group to look at open spaces related to this area to ensure that the issue was given sufficient

emphasis and resources during the concept plan process. The memo indicated that there would be a steering committee. John and Dee voiced concern that it could be confusing to residents to have two steering committees conducting research concurrently on overlapping topics and possibly saying different things. Three Rivers agreed to use the summer to gather information, survey the area and do other research to prepare for the visioning process, as well as provide additional expertise and resources during the area's concept plan process. The two groups agreed to try to send a consistent message.

Dee Wescott reported that he received a notice of a pair of public meetings concerning the Metro Powell/Foster Corridor project scheduled for June 9 and 10 from 5 –8 pm at the Powelhurst Baptist Church and Atkinson Elementary School, respectively. The way in which Foster connects to 172nd Ave. impacts the Damascus area, as one of three routes out of/into Damascus could be cut off should Foster dead end into Pleasant Valley. Members were urged to attend one of the meetings or send in comments. Dee added that the CFD could send in an “official” recommendation from the Committee.

John Hartsock reported that there is a meeting at Metro concerning Title IV should a Planning Subcommittee member want to attend. It will be held at Metro offices downtown Friday, June 13 from 10 am – 12 pm.

6. Treasurer's Report:

John Fromwiller, Treasurer, stated that the account currently stands at \$132 after payments were made for insurance and non-profit bulk permit application costs. He also reported that the CFD received its first tax-deductible contribution for \$100. Dan O'Dell, Finance Chair, reported that last year's grant from Mt. Hood Economic Alliance still has over \$11,000 remaining, to be used for community outreach.

7. Sub-Committee Reports:

a. Public Safety/Services—Jim Wright, Public Safety/Services Chair, reported that since the subcommittee did not meet there was nothing further to report.

b. Planning—Greg Dardis, Planning Chair, gave a brief overview of the Planning Subcommittee's goals to help bring Commissioner Schrader up to speed. He then gave an overview of the first Community Representatives' meeting held on May 19th. This meeting gathered residents from most of the 18 areas, delineated by the subcommittee, to introduce them to the Committee, update them on the area's status after being included in the UGB and explained the difference between values and visions by running a values exercise using personal vs. community choices on property-use decisions. He is planning on leading a visioning exercise for Planning members at the next meeting.

Diana Lobo, Board Member-at-large and Planning member, continued by explaining that only 3 areas have no designated Community Rep (CR) or contact person and members are working on finding interested residents in these areas. The Planning subcommittee plans to have training for the CRs to give them more tools with which to elicit input from people in their areas. This training will help to better define the difference between values and visioning as well.

c. Public Works—Dave Rouse, Public Works Chair, reported that the next topic for the FAQs being worked on is water. Chuck Kisselburg has received the first draft back from Sunrise Water Authority and the subcommittee will look at these and make changes as needed. He also reported that Public Works is delving into the lengthy Tashman study to look more closely at the assumptions on which infrastructure cost forecasts were based. The costs were very high, possibly indicating that some assumptions might need to be reconsidered. Dave mentioned that he would try to get a representative from the County and/or Jeff Tashman to meet with Public Works to discuss the study. Dave will be out of the country for the next month and will assign an acting representative to carry on in his absence. John Hartsock added that Phase II of the study would look at how a broader area of study could alleviate some of the funding dilemma.

d. Public Information—Tim Giorgi, Public Information Chair, reported the following:

- ❖ June 24th was chosen for the next CR meeting, aka, the Community Representative Summer Workshop.
- ❖ Julie Wagner made a long-term plan of publications and topics that coincide with the concept plan schedule.
- ❖ Chuck Kisselburg has completed the final draft of the sewer FAQs which will be up on the website soon
- ❖ The Committee will have a booth at the Damascus Day in the Park festival held this year on Saturday, July 19th, details about the booth to be worked out at a later date.
- ❖ Pub 212 is holding the first BBQ Burnout competition on Saturday, July 12th, proceeds to go to the Committee. The Committee will have a booth here as well.
- ❖ The website is continually being updated but there is so much to do that Tim requested help from anyone with website management knowledge.
- ❖ Tim will set up a few distribution lists using a list server option offered by the company that hosts the Committee's website. This will make sending group mailings easier, within or outside of the Committee.

Chuck Kisselburg added that, since the subcommittees know their topic the best, it would be helpful if they continuously think of FAQs that pertain to issues within their subcommittee.

e. Finance—Dan O'Dell, Finance Chair, gave an overview of the debits and credits for the Committee over the last year and a half and what the Committee needs for the future.

He explained that the money raised from passing the hat has paid mostly for operating costs and insurance, that the \$15,000 grant from Oregon Economic & Community Development Department was used to pay for the services of Rural Development Initiatives (strategic plan and meeting facilitation), the \$25,000 grant from Mt. Hood Economic Alliance (of which \$11,000 remains) was used to host the October Community Forum and pay for the facilitation services of Cogan Owens Cogan and the \$500 grant from the Commission for Children and Families was used to fund the booth at the Day in the Park last year.

Dan continued that the major expenses coming up will be the cost of the financial feasibility study (possibly \$50,000), the cost of legal counsel necessary to ensure all

materials that the County Commissioners require to approve putting a measure on the ballot are in order (possibly \$25,000 –30,000), and the cost of community outreach not covered by the County/Metro. It is possible that some of these services could be provided at no cost, however many details must be worked out before it is known whether this is a viable possibility.

Dan added that, thanks to Treasurer John Fromwiller, the Committee has secured tax-deductible status from the IRS. This will open up funding sources that require it as well as making donations from individuals more enticing. Tell your friends! T-shirt sales are tax deductible only beyond the cost of the shirt, unless the Committee gives them away as a gift for a certain level of donation.

The grant update is as follows:

- ❖ This year, the MHEA grant will be awarded for \$15,000 earmarked for the financial feasibility study and, since the study will cost about \$50,000, is contingent upon the Committee obtaining funding for the remainder of \$35,000 cash (not in-kind funds) before the MHEA will release their funds. Should the study be funded elsewhere, the \$15,000 could be used for community outreach projects with an exception granted by MHEA.
- ❖ The Commission for Children and Families grant was approved again this year for \$500 with the stipulation that it be spent by the end of June (end of this fiscal year) on community outreach. The Executive Committee will hear all suggestions and make final decisions at their next meeting, June 16th.
- ❖ Dan will look into Key Bank for additional funding as they offer a fund that supports community projects.

Dan ended by explaining that the most difficult hurdle to cross in obtaining funding is sounding like a legitimate community organization. This is difficult as the Committee is not elected or appointed or a legally representative body (like the CPOs). Dan has demonstrated the Committee's legitimacy by listing the number of meetings, the total number of volunteer hours (over 4000!), the 501c3 designation and obtaining numerous signatures from County, Metro and public sector representatives. When the MOUs are signed, he will use them as well.

f. Executive Committee—John Hartsock reported that the final meeting of the first year of the Firehouse Study Group will be on June 18. The final draft of the MOU for this group will be sent to Committee members for review and the MOU will be signed by participating members in the near future. Ethan Seltzer has accepted another position so will not be facilitating the group this next year.

Issues that have been worked out this year include agreements between service providers to ensure smooth and adequate coverage for residents regardless of future boundary changes and neighboring cities will delay annexation of new areas inside the UGB until at least November of 2004 so that the Damascus/Boring area can explore governance options (this excludes areas in Pleasant Valley and Springwater Phase I).

Issues to be negotiated this next year include revenue sharing and determination of specific boundaries.

This topic led to a discussion about whether and how hard the Committee should push to include the triangle of area between 172nd on the east, Hwy 212 to the south, Rock Creek to the west to Sunnyside to the north.

Arguments in favor stressed that:

1. part of this area can provide employment land, which any city needs to be financially feasible,
2. residents of that area consider themselves Damascans and it was originally in the Damascus Water District,
3. if Happy Valley really needs employment land they can annex areas south of Sunnyside and west of Rock Creek and
4. if the Committee strives to represent and make cohesive all members of the area then it should push to include this area.

Arguments against maintained that:

1. since it has been hard fought for Happy Valley to agree in theory to 172nd as a potential defining line, it may be a make or break issue to Happy Valley and if we push it, Happy Valley could assert that the Rock Creek line does not give them enough land to ensure they remain an economically viable city. Should the Commissioners agree, the application to put a vote for incorporation on the ballot would be denied which would affect many more people in the area than those who live in the “triangle”.
2. since a majority of the residents in an area must vote for annexation for Happy Valley to annex them, the area could fall into Damascus anyway if that is the vote of the residents.
3. there could be a revenue sharing agreement in the future for all cities affected by the UGB expansion, so what employment land falls precisely within which city is less important.
4. should the agreement be reached for Sunrise Water to fund the financial feasibility plan, their stipulation is that the theoretical boundary between Happy Valley and Damascus be agreed upon. They would not get involved if it were in dispute.

The issue of which governing entity would deliver a comprehensive plan sooner, and therefore allow the development of property sooner, was inconclusive. It would also be a possibility that the County could issue development approvals for a few properties as exceptions to the agreement that no large-scale development occur until the concept plan has been completed for the entire Damascus-Boring study area, thus quickening the pace of development for those few properties regardless of governance.

It was decided that the survey of residents’ preferences in a somewhat expanded area that Happy Valley wanted to develop and share costs with the Committee could be used as a litmus test for whether or not the area should be part of Happy Valley or a possible future Damascus. If a survey indicated an overwhelming desire of residents to be in Damascus, that would give the Committee good reason to request it be included, even over the objections of Happy Valley. Happy Valley may decide it would not be worth the fight to include it. The Commissioners would be less likely to veto the whole proposal if that

were the outcome as well. Should the results of the survey be the opposite, the Committee would need to make a decision on how to proceed.

John Hartsock continued that a large downtown legal firm has approached the Committee with an unofficial proposal to do the legal counsel work for the Committee pro bono. The firm is trying to expand its municipal workload and sees this as a good opportunity to get exposure and have a potential future city as a client. John suggests we pursue this and possibly see what other firms may be interested. It is not an official proposal as yet so it is far from a done deal, but it is promising and it is free!

8. 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.

9. New Business (*Action Item): None

a. *Approval of County MOU for Committee for Public Involvement--John reported that the MOU with the County/Metro and the Committee and CPOs has a final draft which will be sent to Committee members for review. The County Commissioners will review it at their July 8th meeting.

John met with Maggie Dickerson from the County and she said that the workplan schedule has not changed (set to begin in earnest in the fall) but the funding from ODOT has yet to go through. There is a slow process for funding an RFP that Maggie, John and others are trying to get streamlined since time is of the essence for the community outreach portion of the concept plan process.

b. *Approval of Firehouse MOU—See above.

10. Open Agenda:

Dee Wescott reported that he attended a workshop on economic sustainability that was to include a group of four, Ethan Seltzer, Michael Jordan, Dee and a high-school student named Nicholas Radtko, speaking about Damascus, with Rex Burkholder as facilitator. The structure of the meeting broke down and left Dee, Michael Jordan and Nicholas to ad-lib a discussion in front of several audience members. Nicholas admitted he knew nothing about Damascus so Dee and Michael Jordan carried the discussion. The only write up in the newspaper the next day was something about “sustainability workshop says don’t eat bananas”. Dee said it was an interesting experience.

Dee reported that there was a meeting of local fire departments representatives to try to work out a regional agreement for Gresham and Boring that would settle how to make decisions on integrating locations of fire stations in the area to provide full coverage with no overlaps. Chief Riley Caton of Gresham Fire will be their

representative. Dan O'Dell added that Portland and Gresham share a station that sits on the edge of each jurisdiction. Each department staffs the station for half the year.

Dan O'Dell reported that there will be a dedication ceremony at the Boring Fire Station on Wednesday, June 11 at 6:30 pm. The ceremony will celebrate the construction of the fire tower, a new fire engine and the introduction of the new thermal imaging cameras. The evening will also include recognition of the work of the CPOs, contributions of major donors, cake and punch and tours of the station.

11. Executive Session: None

12. Adjournment

Actions Decided:

1. Pursue the Happy Valley survey.
2. Pursue the free legal counsel option.

Actions Pending:

1. Approval of the MOU between County/Metro and CFD/CPOs.
2. Approval of the Firehouse MOU.