

COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE OF DAMASCUS

Date: June 7, 2004

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

Meeting #: 88

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:

John Lee, Boring CPO member, John Bliss from Pleasant Valley and Paul Vogel of Vogel Communications were present at the meeting. Welcome!

3. Action on Minutes of May 17, 2004:

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

Motion to approve minutes of May 17, 2004 made by Ernie Platt, seconded by Mike Hammons and unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Communications:

John Hartsock, Vice Chair, reported that Dean Apostol, Boring CPO member, suggested the Boring CPO organize a Boring Greenbelt festival, similar in style to the Damascus Day in the Park. Dean asked if the CFD would like to participate should the festival come to pass. John indicated that the CFD would likely be interested. John will update as progress on the idea is achieved.

6. Treasurer's Report:

John Fromwiller, Treasurer, submitted a Treasurer's Report after the meeting. It has been added to the minutes by the Secretary. John Fromwiller stated that the account holds \$8332.45 from a variety of grant sources. Dan O'Dell stated that these funds could be used for educational

purposes to raise awareness about incorporation issues and to promote residents to get out and vote. All outstanding bills have been paid.

7. Old Business: (*Action Item)

a. Incorporation Hearing--July 22, 2004

John Hartsock reported that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) have decided to add the incorporation hearing to their general meeting on July 22, 2004, 10 am, in the regular meeting room at 906 Main St., 3rd Floor, Oregon City. The room is not very large so seating could be tight if a lot of people show up. The second hearing date will be on August 2 if another session is necessary.

i. Findings/Benefits--John stated that all interested parties will attempt to tie up legal loose ends as soon as possible, such as conflicts between incorporation statutes and land-use statutes. He asked that Committee to Incorporate Damascus (CTID) members begin to think about how incorporation would personally benefit them, so that these benefits could be written down, compiled and given to the BCC at the hearing.

ii. Adding/Subtracting Area--John reported that for property owners who will not have petitioned to be added to the proposed city of Damascus boundary by the hearing, there would not be enough time for the BCC to issue the 45-day notice and posting requirement after the hearing. So, if any property owner would like to be added to the proposed city of Damascus, they (and any property owners needed to complete a contiguous connection to Damascus), must submit a written request at or by the hearing on July 22. The BCC will decide at the hearing if any property should be subtracted from the city boundary by determining whether or not the property would benefit from incorporation.

iii. 177th Street Update--Marty Beaudet, acting on behalf of his home and neighborhood in these proceedings and not as a CFD representative, related the tale of the 177th Street neighborhood's attempt at keeping the area out of Happy Valley. Marty and the vast majority of his neighbors disagreed with Happy Valley's attempts to split some of the streets in half resulting in half to be serviced by Happy Valley and the other half to be serviced by a possible future city of Damascus. The disputed streets to be included in Happy Valley were included because one or two property owners on the street petitioned to be in Happy Valley, though the vast majority did not.

After many neighborhood meetings, letters and petitions submitted to the Happy Valley City Council, BCC and Metro Councilors, and meetings and phone calls with various governmental representatives, Happy Valley Mayor Eugene Grant told Marty that the City Council would look at the issue further, however they were not interested in jeopardizing the entire annexation by making this change (Marty was uncertain why one change would do that) nor are they interested in a zig-zag border. Marty mentioned that if the area were brought into Happy Valley, it is very likely that the neighborhood would appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) which would certainly delay the annexation. The issue will be voted on at the Happy Valley City Council meeting on June 28, 2004, 7pm at Happy Valley City Hall. As a citizen, Marty urged other citizens of like mind to attend the meeting in Happy Valley or write letters to the Happy Valley City Council and/or the BCC requesting the neighborhood be excluded from Happy Valley.

Burt Andersen asked if an appeal to LUBA would postpone putting the incorporation measure on the ballot in November. Ernie Platt and John Hartsock answered that the two issues would remain separate.

b. Concept Planning Update

i. Public Forum--Revised Date June 26, 2004/CFD Role--John reported that the re-notification newsletter for the forum will be issued the week of June 14. The topic of the forum will be the goals and principles for the concept plan, which will be the criteria the planners will follow. The CFD can have a table at the forum. A topic or topics for the table need to be determined; will discuss at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ii. Advisory Committee--John reiterated that the next Advisory Committee meeting will be on June 22, 2004. He stated that Dee Wescott was voted Chair of the Advisory Committee and Les Otto was voted Vice Chair.

iii. Technical Committees--Goals/Principles--John reported that the technical committees for the concept plan have almost completed their work on goals and principles, which will define land, use and indicate what is buildable land. There will be maps at the forum. Dee added that the forum is intended to show a starting point and state the developed goals and principles on which planning will be based. Feedback from reactions/comments from forum attendees may affect decisions the Advisory Committee must make in their July meeting.

c. Firehouse MOU

Dee reported that most of the principals of the Firehouse group signed the Memo of Understanding (MOU), namely Happy Valley, Gresham, Boring Fire District, CFD, etc., but not Portland, the BCC or the water districts (who have not agreed on exact boundaries of service provision).

d. I 205 East Strategic Plan Project Update

John reported that Cam Gilmore of Clackamas County Transportation Dept. is attempting to put a group together to discuss issues that affect the whole eastside, like the future of the Clackamas industrial area, sewer treatment plants, etc.

e. Metro--Industrial Lands Update

John reported that Metro will soon make its decision of what new industrial lands to include. Revenue sharing from industrial lands is a concept still being discussed within the Firehouse group. The Tashman report focused on road/sewer/water development but did not take into account bridge financing. This could push the costs forecasted for development of this area up higher. If this area is to bear the burden of long-term development, funding from outside the proposed city will be necessary to build the necessary infrastructure. These and aforementioned topics will be addressed in the I205 East Strategic Plan group.

8. New Business: (*Action Item)

a. Presentation by Boring CPO member John Lee on moving eastern boundary of proposed city of Damascus to 242

John Lee began by stating that he did not speak for the Boring CPO as a whole, but for a group of people who felt that the eastern boundary would serve the communities better if it were at 242nd instead of 257th. He gave several reasons why:

- ❖ Many in the area between those streets have considered and do consider themselves to be residents of Boring. They would likely vote against being included in Damascus.
- ❖ If the entire study area, which includes both Damascus and Boring, should one day become one city, the line chosen at this time would matter little in the long term, so avoid the potential opposition and use 242nd.
- ❖ Boring is exploring the village concept and may one day become a city and a western boundary at 242nd would make the city more viable.
- ❖ The Boring CPO boundary, House district boundary and water district boundary all use 242nd.
- ❖ Metro chose 257th for its urban growth boundary (UGB) line expansion, but that is not a compelling reason to be the city of Damascus line.
- ❖ The area in between 242nd and 257th would make a good permanent greenbelt between the two communities.
- ❖ The best reason is that the communities should work together to achieve common and individual goals, not make a decision to benefit one that is widely opposed by the other.

Discussion followed that included the following comments:

- ❖ Since the area is within the UGB, and the 242nd corridor is slated for development, if residents on one side of the road are in Damascus and residents on the other side are not, only half the people affected/benefited by development will be paying for it.
- ❖ The new master plans of the water districts state 257th as the service provision boundary.
- ❖ The Boring CPO boundary is actually at 257th (John Lee disputed this claim).
- ❖ Natural boundaries make more sense than fabricated ones, and 257th is the bottom of the ridge, thereby facilitating provision of public services as well as respecting a natural barrier.
- ❖ The school district is 257th.
- ❖ The Board of County Commissioners is not likely to want to leave a sliver that is within the UGB, and thereby requiring urbanization, that is under a third jurisdiction (the County being the third, Damascus and Gresham the other two) to muddy development negotiations and coordination. This area could not be in the Village of Boring because villages are not allowed to exist inside the UGB.
- ❖ Damascus should not force an area that is opposed to being included in the city to become part of the city. It is the same issue over which the 177th St. neighborhood is battling Happy Valley. If the majority of residents in the area object to becoming part of Damascus, the CFD should respect their wishes.

It was decided that John Lee should ask residents to either write individual letters to the CFD/BCC or sign a petition that states their opposition to becoming part of Damascus. In this way, it would be possible to gauge how widespread the opposition is. If the majority does not

want to be part of Damascus, moving the boundary to 242nd should be given serious consideration.

b. Presentation by Vogel Communications: Public Education

The CFD reported that Paul Vogel discussed a potential road map for a Damascus incorporation advocacy campaign with the Committee for the Incorporation of Damascus (CTID). He commented that campaigns consist of three elements: money, time and people. He suggested that the campaign use the strengths of the CTID, namely time and people, to talk one-on-one with neighbors and residents or in small neighborhood meetings. Stressing these two elements limits the need for large quantities of money. He suggested skipping printed media, except for the Damascus/Boring Observer (mailed flyers are expensive, so use only as necessary to recruit supporters and as a quick way to gauge support/opposition/undecided in specific areas) and electronic media (no television or radio ads necessary). The telephone poll indicated that most people trust their neighbors and the Observer the most.

Paul suggested that, at most, there would be three mailings: the first to all households of registered voters, a second to those who responded as "undecided" and the third to all voters to support the vote. Funds are needed so part of the print campaign will be fundraising. This is a grassroots campaign and as such should be financed by a majority of community donations. Mailings should list options starting at \$25 and increasing in \$25 increments. Donations are deductible as a tax credit on State taxes at \$50 for singles, \$100 for those filing taxes together. The first donation mailing should be sent to the list of signatures on the petition. Checks should be payable to CTID, but Paul suggested a catchier acronym for better recognition/name retention. New members should be sought for the campaign to breathe new life into the cause and to expand the reach of the Committee.

Paul also suggested that the summer be used as an information and advocacy campaign to get to know the issues and to vote (the CFD could take on this part as it does not advocate for a specific vote on a specific issue). Also, a smaller group should take on the task of overall decision-making for the campaign as well as making assignments for responsible parties for specific tasks.

Paul Vogel ended by saying the Committee should discuss his suggestions, decide what to retain and what to change. This will be discussed further at the next Executive Committee meeting of the CTID in two weeks (June 21, 2004).

c. Day in the Park

Joyce Schwer, Secretary, reported that the Damascus Day in the Park festival will be on Saturday, July 31, from 10 am - 4 pm. The CFD is welcome to have an information booth again this year, with a kids' game (as all information booths are asked to provide). The Damascus Civic Club is the sponsor of the festival and has decided that printed information can be available inside the booth for those interested in picking it up, but asks that surveys be avoided.

d. Observer/Fire Break

Marty Beaudet will write an article for the July 1 Observer issue. It will update the status of the ballot measure, the boundary issues and mention the start of a fundraising campaign (possibly with a donation coupon?). The Fire Break is schedule to come out August 1st, deadline is likely first week of July, however, Dan O'Dell suggested talking with the new Boring Fire District Fire Chief Doug Branch.

Tim Giorgi, Public Information Chair, suggested a new e-newsletter be formulated. It will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

e. BBQ Burnout?

Marty Beaudet reported that he did not think the Burnout would take place this year as the businesspeople around Pub 212 were upset with lack of parking for their customers. John Hartsock asked if Pub 212 might be able to get a temporary off-premise catering/liquor permit to hold the Burnout in Damascus Park. This idea will be pursued further.

9. Open Agenda:

Barb Ledbury reminded members that there would be an open house on the Sunrise Corridor project from I205 to Rock Creek at Sunnybrook Service Center on Tuesday, June 8 from 6-8pm.

Marty Beaudet asked that those who may be interested in becoming city council candidates discuss their views in the near future, perhaps even carving out a common platform of recommendation the CFD has determined after exhaustive research. There was more support for candidates to develop platforms individually to avoid a "block" of candidates that are too closely associated with one another and/or with the CFD. The election is a perfect time to pull in talents from other sources.

John Hartsock stated that recommendations from the CFD subcommittees need to be put in a written document and submitted to the future city council. They are under no obligation to follow any of them, however the topics were researched exhaustively by subcommittee members and will likely be of use to the new city council. Greg Dardis commented that the collective vision of the CFD does not have to end with the formation of the city; it could continue to promote education of the community on issues facing it even after November.

10. Executive Session: None

11. Adjournment