

Committee for the Future of Damascus

Annual Meeting

Date: August 22, 2006

Place: Damascus City Hall
19920 SE Hwy 212
Damascus, OR 97089

Attendees: John Hartsock, John Fromwiller, Diana Lobo, Ernie Platt, Mike Hammons, Barb Ledbury, Chuck Kisselburg, Marty Beaudet, Joyce Schwer

The meeting was called to order by John Hartsock, Vice Chair.

Marty Beaudet made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on 9/6/05, Chuck Kisselburg seconded. The motion to accept the minutes of 9/6/05 was unanimously approved.

The issue was raised of whether the Committee for the Future of Damascus (CFD) should remain an active organization. Reasons for remaining active included:

- ❖ that the group has a history of success in working together to address community concerns and could do so again in the future for issues such as parks, library, community pool, sports fields, etc.,
- ❖ that it is easier to change the focus of an established 501c3 organization than initiate a new one to address future community issues, and
- ❖ that a 501c3 organization is eligible for grants that other organizations are not (so could work in tandem with the City for common goals).

Reasons against were that the group would need to meet at least once per year, hold elections and pay a \$50 yearly filing fee.

John Fromwiller clarified that a 501c3 organization must be a charitable organization and that the CFD is filed as an educational 501c3, but that there are a few other narrowly defined designations. The CFD could remain a 501c3 and change its designation, should future goals require a somewhat different approach. It could also change its name to indicate a new set of goals.

Ernie Platt made a motion that the Committee for the Future of Damascus remain an active 501c3 organization. John Hartsock seconded the motion. The motion to remain an active organization was unanimously approved.

Barb Ledbury suggested that the CFD could address an issue concerning the Damascus Historical Society (DHS). The DHS is considering disbanding and would like to protect the historical items it owns, or have an organization pay the monthly storage fee where the items are currently housed (for \$80/month). Barb continued that there are others willing to donate items for the collection (some rather large), but are awaiting a more certain solution to what will become of the collection. The items need to be donated to another 501c3 organization if the current grant the DHS receives is to continue to be utilized. John Fromwiller commented that a 501c3 can donate to a government entity and other grants could be found to help pay for upkeep.

John Hartsock suggested that an inventory be taken of the items as a starting point, determine which hold real historical (vs. sentimental) value and then address the issue at the next CFD meeting as to whether it is something the group would like to work to find a home for (ultimately a climate-controlled environment of some sort would be best).

Barb said she would ask the current holder of the items if she could use some help cataloguing them and if she might be interested in eventually donating them to an appropriate organization (a CFD offshoot? the City?). Barb also suggested that the CFD, or a form of it with new members, could be involved with the DHS and possibly the Damascus Cemetery Association, all under a different 501 designation (a museum?). The new CFD could be an umbrella organization that oversees several different projects, each with a set of community members interested in that project. Joyce Schwer suggested an article or articles in the Observer might be helpful, relating the new focus of the group and asking for new members, should the group make the decision to go forward.

Other issues were also discussed that the CFD could research.

Barb suggested looking for landowners who would be willing to donate land or easements for parks and trails. But which to do first? Ask landowners then make a plan or make a plan and ask the landowners who fall within those areas? Perhaps a compromise--designate a start/end point for a trail, then ask anyone between those areas who is interested in conservation (trail could be crooked, but it is easier than working with landowners who are in opposition to the idea). Or propose a general area that needs a park and contact all landowners within a certain radius for interested parties.

Mike Hammons suggested finding a way to cover the already-existing ditches along the roadways with some permeable but level surface (boardwalk? grate? gravel?), which could be used for walking/biking. This would give a great start to a trail system without requiring extensive land purchases. If the surface is permeable, the swale could still function as its intended to do during rain.

It was decided that these issues would be addressed further at the next meeting, which needs to be in either January or February (John Hartsock will check). Until that time, a slate of candidates for board positions was fielded:

Chair	Ernie Platt
Vice Chair	Chuck Kisselburg
Treasurer	John Fromwiller
Secretary	Joyce Schwer
Member at large	Diana Lobo
Member at large	Marty Beaudet
Member at large	Greg Dardis (remains on record due to no opposition)

Diana Lobo made a motion to affirm the slate of candidates. John Hartsock seconded the motion. The slate of candidates was unanimously approved.