

March 7, 2014
8:30 AM
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Wayfinding Committee met on the above date in the City Manager's Office Conference Room at Newport City Hall in Newport, Oregon. In attendance were: Committee Chair Wendy Engler, committee members Chuck Forinash, Linda Neigebauer, and Robin Dennis. Committee members Frank Geltner and Ken Spencer was not able to attend. Also in attendance was City Council Liaison Mark Saelens. Additional attendees were: City of Newport staff Mike Eastman and Bob Fuller.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chair Engler.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2013 minutes. The motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

November 1, 2013 field trip: (This discussion also included several items related to Agenda Item IV, "Continued Discussion re: Hallmark Inn Beach Access"; as such, both items will be included in this portion of the minutes).

Regarding the Hallmark Inn easement/signage: Eastman advised the "Beach Access" sign is prepped for installation on the east side of Elizabeth Street. Poor weather has delayed the installation. He further advised he has not had an opportunity to meet with Ric Raybourn of Hallmark Inn regarding their responsibility for signage on their easement and details of that signage. Eastman emphasized that there is nothing in the Agreement which requires the Hallmark to sign the beach trail, but that doing so is in their interest.

Forinash suggested a sign at the bottom of the staircase that descends from the easement path to the beach, providing information that the stairs are for public access. Eastman will research regarding jurisdiction, wording, etc. He will also confer with Tim Gross, Public Works Director and City Engineer, on this matter.

The committee members agreed the parking lot would be better served if it had City signage for the designated public parking spots.

There was additional discussion regarding the color(s) to be used for various signs. Should the "Beach Access" sign be blue or brown? Eastman advised the standard practice for these types of directional/informational signs is brown; however, several other similar "Beach Access" signs in the city are blue with white lettering. Eastman will gather information as to "regulated" colors of signs, and will check with Gross regarding placement of parking signs in the lot. Forinash asked about the issue of additional gravel or similar material on the shoulder area by the parking lot, and a cross walk. Eastman advised that Gross was not enthusiastic about either proposal. Cost, maintenance, and placement were some of the concerns expressed.

A question arose as to the committee's specific areas of responsibility; Eastman produced a copy of Municipal Code Ordinance No. 2048 and Exhibit A, which details the committee's responsibilities (attached).

Saelens suggested there is probably overlap with other city committees' areas of responsibility, and it might be useful for the Wayfinding Committee to meet with the Bike and Ped Committee to coordinate some of their proposals; what might not be in one committee's responsibilities may well be in another's.

A discussion followed concerning the proposed signage placement at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. During the field trip, Aquarium staff was clear that management was not agreeable to placing any signs in the exit/entrance rotunda area just outside of the entry doors. It was suggested a sign could be proposed near the path entry area, but Forinash advised it is not clear what development plans the Aquarium has for this area as they are working on a probable reconfiguration of the area; Dennis opined that placing a sign at the picnic area (as the Aquarium staff offered) would not be worth the money since the committee agreed during the field trip this was not really a useful nor visible placement area. Chair Engler suggested this item should be tabled for now until further contact can be made with Aquarium management, and a better understanding of their community responsibilities.

Continuing the discussion of the field trip, Forinash advised he spoke with Chris Urbach from Port of Newport regarding placement of signs near the path just to the west of Rogue Brewery. Urbach advised the Port would be glad to put up wayfinding signs when they install an interpretive/historical sign near the path at this location. The Port also advised they can install a sign near the marina store as discussed during the November field trip; also, materials can be placed in the lobby of the RV park office. No contact has been made as yet with Hatfield Marine Science Center staff regarding placement of signage, but Forinash advised he did not think it would be an issue. Additionally, he spoke informally with management at the brewery, and they indicated it would be permissible to have signs either inside or near the entrance of the red silo area at the brewery/brew pub.

Forinash suggested perhaps a more attractive frame for the sign might facilitate the discussion with the Aquarium regarding placement of a wayfinding map sign.

A motion was made and seconded to have signage presented to the Port of Newport Harbor Master (Urbach) for the marina store, the RV park, and the trail area west of Rogue Brewery. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Regarding follow-up to the Aquarium situation, Saelens will set up a meeting with committee members and City Manager Spencer Nebel to discuss the committee's goals, progress, issues, etc.

Forinash said he would like part of the next meeting agenda to include J.R. Collier from State Parks and a discussion of his meeting with ODOT sign personnel regarding the sign issues

discussed during the field trip, specifically under the bridge and the public parking area next to the condos. Also he said he would like to include Chris Urbach from Port of Newport as well.

The committee agreed some large-format maps (preferably by area or district) are needed to facilitate discussions regarding placement/removal of wayfinding signs. Eastman will get files that Fuller can get printed on a large-format printer; additionally, Forinash will contact Derrick Tokos in Planning Department regarding maps.

Committee Comments: Neigebauer advised she had been contacted by some Nye Beach merchants regarding the need for additional one-way signage on Beach Drive and possibly NW 3rd. Eastman advised he will have to meet with Gross to discuss any additional signage regarding one-way streets.

Forinash advised he was contacted by ODOT and they noted they had placed a new, highly-visible sign at Abbey/Hwy. 101 with directions and information for the Bay Front. He noted it was a positive gesture on the part of ODOT to help facilitate wayfinding in the city.

Forinash also said he will contact Collier at State Parks and Urbach at Port of Newport regarding their availability for the next meeting on Friday, April 4th. The committee discussed the option of having all or part of the next meeting in the field at those areas discussed at today's meeting.

There being no further business, Chair Engler adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.