

November 1, 2013  
8:30 AM  
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Wayfinding Committee met on the above date at the Georgie's Restaurant easement area on SW Elizabeth St. in Newport Oregon. In attendance were: Committee Chair Wendy Engler, committee members Chuck Forinash, Linda Neigebauer, Robin Dennis, and Frank Geltner. Per previous notice committee member Ken Spencer was not able to attend. Also not attending was City Council Liaison Mark Saelens. Additional attendees were: Ric Raybourn, general manager of the Hallmark Inn and Georgie's Restaurant; J.R. Collier from Oregon State Parks; city 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 October 4, 2013 minutes. The motion passed on unanimous voice vote.

Today's meeting consisted of a field trip by the committee to assess wayfinding signage needs at two locations: The easement area at Georgie's Restaurant (and the associated parking area), and South Beach.

A discussion and walk-through by the committee and Ric Raybourn at the Georgie's Restaurant location led to proposed sign placements for both the parking area and the beach access area. Also discussed was possible placement of a crosswalk on SW Elizabeth St. from the parking area to the beach access easement path, and moving the southbound shuttle stop on SW Elizabeth a short distance south to be more inclusive of the beach access. Eastman advised he will meet with Tim Gross, Public Works Director, regarding crosswalk placement and a possible gravel pathway from the parking lot to a crossing location at the intersection of Elizabeth St/Bay St. Also Eastman will meet at a later time with Raybourn to discuss details of beach access and parking area signage. All agreed that additional signage was needed to clarify the beach access area at the public parking area, the street entry area, and the foot path. With this part of the field trip completed, Raybourn left the meeting at about 9:15 AM.

Chair Engler also left the meeting at this time due to a previous commitment. Vice-Chair Forinash assumed the role of committee chair. The committee and attendees then travelled to South Beach to review signage issues in the areas of Abalone Way, Rogue Brewery, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, and the Newport Marina.

Enroute to South Beach, the entourage passed through Yaquina Bay State Park. Forinash requested Collier (State Parks) consider adding "Lighthouse" to the Yaquina Bay State Park signage at the south entrance. Collier said this would be feasible. This would allow vehicular and pedestrian traffic to know about this important feature.

On Abalone Way, Forinash pointed out areas where signs such as “Welcome to South Beach” could improve the visitor experience in this area; currently there is a lack of adequate signs in this immediate area. Eastman advised this is all ODOT right-of-way; Collier offered that State Parks could work with ODOT in this area in conjunction with committee suggestions. He said the State Parks person responsible for signage will be in Newport next Wednesday and he will bring her to this area for familiarization; she negotiates with ODOT and other agencies for sign placements.

Forinash took the committee to a little-known public parking area at Abalone Dr. and 26<sup>th</sup> St. It was agreed that improved signage for this lot was needed; it is an attractive area for viewing boat traffic entering and leaving the bay but is poorly marked as public parking. Also mentioned was possible signage to direct visitors to the south jetty area from this point along SW 26<sup>th</sup>, and “sharrows” on SW 26<sup>th</sup> for bicycle traffic, including placement by the City of two or so on SW 26<sup>th</sup> street before entering the South Jetty road, and have State Parks accommodate several more "sharrows" along South Jetty road to the beginning of State Parks (mile long) mixed use path that leads to their day use area. This would effectively link the City's mixed use path that ends near the condos under the Bridge at SW 26<sup>th</sup> street with the State Parks path. These "sharrows" would be a wayfinding and safety feature.

At OSU Drive/Ferry Slip Road, It was noted that Port of Newport signage appeared somewhat redundant because of the large ODOT sign at this location indicating the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Hatfield Marine Science Center (which is repeated on the Port’s sign); the Port’s sign would be clearer if this redundant information were removed. The committee will contact the Port and propose some changes to their sign at this location.

The committee then moved to the west end of the Rogue Brewery parking lot. Further discussion ensued regarding possible wayfinding sign placements by the adjacent path area here, possibly where an existing informational sign is currently placed, as well as the brew pub entrance.

The committee relocated to the Oregon Coast Aquarium to examine possible locations for wayfinding sign placement. At this time, the committee met with Mark Hanrahan of the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The committee stressed the importance of having wayfinding signage in a place that is readily accessible to Aquarium patrons, and that the courtyard area would be ideal; second choice would be on the path exiting the courtyard area west towards the parking area. Hanrahan advised he did not believe the Aquarium committee nor Aquarium CEO Carrie Lewis would agree to any sign placement other than across the street at the picnic area by the parking lot. The committee emphasized the partnership between the City and the Aquarium and hoped the Aquarium committee could be flexible on this. Hanrahan advised he does not have the authority to make decisions regarding this issue and suggested the committee get in touch with CEO Carrie Lewis. The consensus of the committee was that placing signage at the picnic area would be largely ineffective, and the least desirable solution. The committee

decided to follow up with contacting the Aquarium officers involved in this area of responsibility and decision-making.

The committee ended the field trip by visiting Hatfield Marine Science Center and the Port of Newport Marina. At the science center, a brief discussion was held regarding possibilities for wayfinding sign placement outside the center, perhaps at the outdoor bench/walkway area near the tsunami dock exhibit. This will be discussed in detail at a later time.

At the Port marina, the committee viewed the market/boat launch area and the check-in area as possible venues. After looking over the areas immediately around the market, it was thought the kiosk just south of the boat launch adjacent to the walking path would be a better location. This would be likely to capture a more attentive audience than the market area, which would possibly be less than ideal because of the nature of boat launch traffic, the main goal of which is to get a boat in the water and then move out of the way.

At the RV check-in building, the committee decided a paper laminated (or similar) wayfinding map posted inside the lobby area would be adequate for those persons checking in to the marina RV area.

Having completed the field trip and related discussions, the committee and attendees travelled back to Georgie's Restaurant, and Vice-Chair Forinash adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.