



Vernonia Schools – Oregon Solutions Steering Committee
Scout Cabin, Vernonia
May 8th, 2-3:30pm
Minutes

Welcome/Introductions

Commissioner Tony Hyde

Attendees: Eric Block, Metropolitan Group; Dan Brown, Community Action Team; Carol Cox; Dr. Ken Cox, VSD; John Donovan, Metropolitan Group; Gretchen Dursch, Oregon Solutions; Steve Effros, Project Manager; Mark Ellsworth, Governor Kitzhaber's office; Tobie Finzel; Vernonia Hands-on Art; Bill Haack, Vernonia City Administrator; Greg Kintz, Vernonia School Board; Josette Hugo, Gretchen Dursch, Oregon Solutions; Steve Effros, Project Manager; Mark Ellsworth, Governor Kitzhaber's Office; Tobie Finzel, Hands-on Art; Bill Haack, Vernonia City Administrator; Greg Kintz, Vernonia School Board; Josette Hugo, Rep. Witt's Office; Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner; Senator Betsy Johnson; Jim Johnson, Oregon Solutions; Bill Langmaid, Vernonia School Board; Heather Lewis, Vernonia Health Center Board; Kelly Marks, PCC; Larry McKinley, ODOT; Betsy Miller, VSD; Dawn Plews, VSD; Marc Siegel, Rep. Merkley's Office; Ryan Mann, Rep. Bonamici's Office; Fritz Graham, Senator Wyden's Office; Teri Willard, VSD Leadership teacher; VHS Students MaKayla Adams and Summer Snow.

Updates (approximately 5 minutes each)

Community Projects

Bill Haack

Bill handed out an overview of projects in the City of Vernonia. The handout outlines relationships with the school district, city, county and state agencies. At the natural resources curriculum group meeting this morning, Bill discussed a school project to name the wetland slated for September 2012. Bill commented that the city and school district are moving forward with an Oregon Park & Recreation concept grant, visualized as a strategic classroom for the school. The city will continue to work with the school district. Side two of the handout details the projects the city will continue to move forward. Senator Betsy Johnson said this is the first time that all of the catalytic changes that have occurred all along the way are in one document, it shows the most tangible evidence of the phoenix transformation that has occurred in this community.

The Rebuilding Center of Portland has gotten an anonymous grant to salvage some of the materials of the WGS building. Senator Betsy Johnson asked the campaign to explain why the rebuilding center opportunity is unique. The rebuilding center tries to use local workers as much as possible and attempts to use some of the reclaimed timbers, clear old growth beams, etc. Tony Hyde commented that it adds to the whole flavor of sustainability.

Construction

Dr. Ken Cox, Steve Effros

Steve reported that the project is in the last stages of construction and compliance of codes for temporary occupancy BOORA is taking the lead. Beyond June 8 is the date for the major completion. LEED requirements will be done, including flushing the buildings out of the building which will be done before students occupy. August completion and opening ceremonies were discussed. LEED platinum is still being pursued. The ODOT road project is still on track - June will be the start of the road construction work that is planned. There is a two phase process of landscaping. Irrigation is temporary to establish plantings, major planting of trees planned. Second phase is the seven year phase for completion and maintenance of wetlands.

Project Budget

Dr. Ken Cox

Dr. Cox reported that the first \$2 million from the legislature is on its way. The budget is close to the \$40 million dollar mark. The department of education we are working with them on another bridge financing opportunity. Tony Hyde commented that he has heard some younger people talk about the new school project that was somewhat negative. All the pieces that are not in play are not thought of. There is not a component that has not been thought out. There are always neigh sayers, we need to work harder to get the word out there that all of those components have been considered.

Senator Betsy Johnson commented that the district and its partners have raised, in the worst economy since the great depression, \$40 million dollars and the school will open when promised.

Larry McKinley reported on ODOT updates. There were some dollars that were spent before ODOT became involved, and will be reimbursed to the district.

Resource Budget & Upcoming Fundraising Activities

John Donovan

John reported that there are several opportunities are still being pursued. We can open the school and bring other opportunities on line as soon as available. The best pitch is now when the school is still under construction. There are more opportunities with national foundations, state agencies, and Vernonia community members that are being pursued. Stories need to be shared and told. There are partners that will help tell the story. Clear Channel radio stations are continuing to support the campaign in the latter part of June and again in Mid-August.

Student Fundraising

Mrs. Willard & Students MaKayla Adams and Summer Snow

MaKayla and Summer, VHS freshman, presented the results of the student campaign called "Donate a Dollar, Build a Building, Save a Town." \$4,700.33 was raised. The Challenge to the other schools has been met and Tony Hyde and Mike Pihl will be visiting Perrydale school in Yamhill County as the grand prize award.

Upcoming Events:

Last Chance Dance June 23, 2012

Bill Langmaid

A celebration will be held to remember the current buildings on Saturday, June 23, 2012. The event is free, although there is a charge for the dinner. A Clear Channel DJ will be at the dance. Bill handed out a donation letter to meeting attendees. Bricks and chairs are available for sale.

Ground Breaking August 21, 2012

Dr. Ken Cox, John Donovan

The date for the opening ceremonies will be Tuesday, August 21; the main event will be at 10:00am.

Moving Day and Work Parties

Dr. Ken Cox

June 26 is moving day, community involvement will be utilized. Barb Carr and Mark Brown have done an excellent job of organizing the move for the district. June 12, the kitchen on the current site will be transferred to the new site.

May 19 there will be a work party at the new district office site. Chip Bubl may contact the master gardeners for pay-back hours.

Oregon Solutions Update

Jim Johnson

Dr. Cox thanked Oregon Solutions for all of their years of hard work. Staff support from Oregon Solutions ends at this meeting, but this is still an Oregon Solutions project.

Senator Betsy Johnson remarked that all at the table and beyond have made this truly an Oregon project.