



McKenzie Rebuilds - *Blue River Workgroup*

Wednesday, March 8th, 1-3:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Lane County: Becky Taylor, Matt McRae, Marianne Nolte; Business Oregon: Laura Engstrom¹; Locals Helping Locals, Cliff Richardson; McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group: Devin Thompson; McKenzie School: Lane Tompkins; Kelley Nonprofit Consulting: Kristin Monahan; Meyer's General Store: Melanie Stanley.

Facilitator Team: OR Solutions: Kristen Wright, Michael Morter, and Sofia Castellanos.

1. Executive Summary

- All participants shared what they could bring to the collaborative table to promote the recovery of Blue River after being affected by the fire.
- The group discussed the Working Agreements and identified the issues and outcomes around the three priority areas for the workgroup. The group wants to clarify the geographic scope of the project and the boundaries of Blue River (BR) to focus their work. They also discussed the Blue River Drive Design (BRD) project and the workgroup's role in it. Finally, the group also discussed the planning of the March 18th community meeting, and the feedback was to have an interactive and visual format to gather input from participants. The potential involvement of any additional key stakeholders were also discussed.

2. Overview of Working Agreements and Guiding Questions and Outcomes (Attachment A: Blue River Workgroup Draft Working Agreements)

- The group discussed the three main priorities identified in a meeting held on February 1st for the workgroup to address which include: Blue River land use and zoning, funding for business construction/rebuilding, and the Blue River Drive design. The group brainstormed the issues and outcomes they hope to achieve for each priority area. Table below summarizes the issues and expected outcomes.

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Workgroup Priority	What are the issues or concerns?	What are the outcomes we are hoping to achieve?
Blue River Land Use and Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mismatch between the rules and what the community is looking for to make the recovery possible - setbacks, lot sizes, property uses and limitations - impact of infrastructure (wastewater, water, electrical) - historical use versus future uses. Does it allow for future uses? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clarity around the rules and regulations - change the rules to allow more flexibility for the physical realities and the needs of the community - to make a distinction between the code's concept of rural and the community's concept of rural
Funding for construction and rebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is no economic recovery mechanism to stand up brick and mortar businesses. Need to explore tools to help like economic zones, etc. - constructions costs are higher than expected - No grant funding for businesses (all are loans) - Current tools aren't geared for unusual inflation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to support individuals to rebuild their businesses or new comers to build - collaboration to find and secure financial sources to rebuild business - Maximize available public funding for high priority uses
Blue River Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of clarity on parking design or requirements. - No clarity about setbacks - Blue River Drive to school: steep ditches, no shoulder, no easy nonauto mobility to track/school from downtown, no safety features. - Utilities coordination needed - Unclear if there is adequate funding to implement the design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A safe design that moves forward the vision of the future of BR with identified phases of design and implementation. - Funding identified to implement the design. - Survey completed (<i>It was determined this is beyond the BR Drive Design scope</i>)

- During the meeting, there was a discussion on the need to clarify the geographic scope of the project. It was agreed upon that this would be addressed and agreed upon in a future meeting.

The proposal and support were for the main focus to be on downtown Blue River, with School and Lazy Days. It was emphasized that it is essential to determine and agree upon the geographic boundaries of Blue River to effectively concentrate the group's work and efforts.

3. Overview of Blue River Drive Project and BR Workgroup Role

(Attachment B: Blue River Drive Design Concept PowerPoint)

- The BRD project was initiated in response to the library's concerns about the setbacks. It was pointed out that the minimum standard rule of 80 feet for a rural road, with an additional 10 feet to account for any unforeseen topographical constraints did not make sense given that downtown Blue River is flat.
- Code amendments are currently being developed regarding the right of way relative to setbacks. To define the outer right of way boundary and roadway elements, a design concept needs to be developed. The County is currently conducting a needs analysis to understand the community's needs and provide the engineering firm with information for design alternatives.
- Funding was identified as a potential concern for this project. It was suggested that external funding could be secured through the design concept, which would illustrate the costs, design, and community needs.
- The group also discussed potential financial strategies, including grant sources and local improvement districts, to fund the project.
- It was emphasized that the design concept would focus on implementation and construction funding and would detail as many grant sources as possible.

4. Overview and Planning for the March 18th Community Meeting

- The group provided feedback on the meeting design.
- They agreed that a more interactive and visual format would be helpful, such as using sticky notes and maps to gather input.
- They proposed a structure with four tables, facilitators, and note-takers, with breaks for mingling and sharing ideas.
- The group also emphasized the importance of being action-focused and clear on time limitations for public input.

5. Next Steps / Adjourn

- The OS will look at the possibility of scheduling bi-monthly workgroup meetings and request feedback on the working agreements.
- The group is encouraged to send feedback directly to the OS team or Sofía.
- The OS will incorporate the feedback and share it with the group at the next meeting.