

OMRT Meeting Minutes - 8/18/21

Jeff, Todd and Jim participated

1. Christine Coray from SJ Public Works may be available to discuss projects that potentially impact the OMRT and trails in general on the island - (she's been invited to attend virtually)

Christine was unable to join us. She said in an email prior to the meeting that she hasn't been involved in the TIP process of late but will talk with Colin Huntemer, the PW Director, upon his return from vacation about the status of PW projects that may be of interest to the OMRTC.

Both Todd and Jim have noticed that work has begun on improving the sight lines along False Bay Drive. One 90 degree turn just east of the magnificent view of the historic Lawson Barn and Straits View Farm has had upwards of ~30 trees removed, which has greatly improved visibility around the curve. The county has also recently had a mower cut back the overgrowth along both sides of the road, which makes it easier to visualize how a sidepath along False Bay Drive could be accommodated along significant stretches of the road between Cattle Point Rd. and the False Bay parking area.

2. Survey/questionnaire discussion - when and how do we want people to take the survey? After they've engaged with content on the website, such as the slideshow and/or video? After they've attended an in-person presentation?

What are we going to do with the information once it's been gathered? (we may be getting some great quotes)

The 3 of us agree that we like both the content and appearance of the survey now. It's taken a while to get it to this point, but we're happy with where it's at now.

We think it's important that the survey is not available to the public unless people have some background info about the proposed OMRT first. On the website, a link to the survey could be attached to the end of both the slide show and the video. But it probably shouldn't be accessible as a stand alone item on the site. Paper copies of the survey could be distributed to attendees of in-person OMRT presentations.

Todd mentioned that a reporter from the Journal contacted him wanting to do an interview about the survey. He demurred at this time, saying the survey is not ready for release to the general public. He's unsure how the reporter knew to contact him.

We agree that it's important to make sure that we have pretty tight control over the messaging concerning the trail and try to avoid unforeseen pitfalls that may occur if information is released prematurely.

3. Sunshine Alley historical panels and new brochures update

Robin informed the committee that she dropped off a new, slightly revised iteration of the OMRT brochure at Printonyx before leaving on her month-long trip. Printonyx has been asked to print 1000 copies, which will cost

\$238. The new brochure includes an updated map of the proposed OMRT route that has been circulated among the Committee.

Shaun has submitted a draft to the Historical Society (?) of the proposed panels for the Sunshine Alley OMR project, after circulating her ideas among the group via email. Robin indicated that after receiving feedback from the Historical Society, the Committee will have an opportunity to tweak the content and design (?) of the panel project.

There was a discussion at the meeting about whether there's a need for the Committee to consider adopting some sort of standard operating procedure (SOP) that ensures that OMRTC-related projects have gone through rigorous internal review before being released to the public. This may include the Committee signing off on a project at a monthly meeting before it's submitted to key partners, local agencies, a printer, etc. It can be hard to keep up with all the email exchanges sent back and forth within the Committee, and not all Committee members are included on each project's email thread. It was decided that a more in-depth discussion of the Committee's process of approving things should be included on the September meeting agenda.

4. NPS signage project update

Jeff reported that Lex at NPS has submitted a funding proposal to her higher ups for OMRT signage to be installed at both American and English Camps. Jeff, Todd and Jim discussed the need for the Committee to have a more thorough discussion of the proposed content and format of the signage that Shaun has been working hard on at the next meeting. It's important that this discussion takes place before Lex receives approval for funding, so the Committee is in agreement about what we'd like the signage to say when the NPS is ready to move forward on it. This will be an agenda item at the September meeting, and we're hoping that Shaun might be available to join us when we have the discussion.

5. Cowichan contact update

Jeff indicated that with the surge of Covid cases of late, we could be months away from having Cowichan tribal leaders visiting the island.

Joe Dolan, who is the local NPS liaison with 1st Nations people, is interested in helping the OMRTC in our desire to establish a dialog with 1st Nations people in the region. He said he'll reach out to Salish Sea 1st Nation communities to see if any of them want to get involved, and will try to involve the Lummi Nation in particular because they have the most direct link to early SJI history.

Jeff also reported that one of the names Boyd gave Candice Charley happens to be the ancestor of a current Cowichan tribal elder. Boyd, Jeff and Candice will be talking soon to follow up on this connection.

6. Land Bank/Canyontree/NPS update

Jim reported that Lincoln Bormann of the Land Bank was unable to have a face-to-face meeting due to time constraints with the Canyontree exec who visited the island briefly in mid-July. Will Hamilton, who is the on-site

manager of the Canyontree property in Roche Harbor Highlands, was able to spend 45 minutes during the July visit to show the exec around the RHH property and talk about how the proposed OMRT would link the Land Bank's Cady Mtn and 3 Corner Lake holdings with English Camp and Mitchell Hill NPS property via RHH. Email discussions have taken place between the Land Bank, NPS and Canyontree concerning access to Land Bank property in the Cady Mtn-3 Corner Lake area and the NPS interest in the historic OMR. It's hoped that the Canyontree exec will be able to make a return visit sometime soon for an in-person meeting with the Land Bank and NPS to further this discussion.

7. Upcoming outreach in the community

Legion presentation in September still on?

Boyd walk & talk about agriculture and OMR in October

Others

As of now, the presentation to the American Legion is still in-person and scheduled for Tuesday Sept. 21 at 5:30.

Jeff has talked to Jim Carroll of the Lions Club, who has expressed interest in having the Committee make another presentation to the Lions about where we are in the process of establishing the OMRT whenever we want to do it.

Boyd and Jim are currently working on setting up a 2-part presentation by Boyd on "Agriculture and the OMR" for mid-October. The 1st part of the program will be a Wednesday evening Zoom with the Library as host; the 2nd part will be a Saturday afternoon walk and talk led by Boyd at Zylstra Lake. Dates and times will be forthcoming.

8. Next meeting - Saturday Sept. 25, 9-11am, site TBD

It was decided that we try to have our next meeting on a Saturday morning so Mark can be involved. His heavy work schedule during the growing season has precluded him from being able to participate in the last several meetings. This date works for Jim, Todd, Jeff, Mark and Dave. Robin should be back from her trip by then, and Tim may well be able to join us in-person too! We're hoping that Shaun can join us for the discussion about the Sunshine Alley panels and NPS signage projects. As always, Boyd and Mike are invited. We know this day might not work for Julie, but we can schedule another time to catch up with her.