

OMRT Monthly Minutes Jan 15, 2022

OMRT Monthly Mtg - In person at Island Rec Conf Rm and via Zoom fr 9-11:10

Present: Jim McNairy, Tim Dustrude, Dave Zeretzke (writer of minutes) , Mark Noyes, Robin Donnelly, Jeffrey Gillette, & Todd Kaden, Julie Fonseca de Borges (RTCA of NPS)

Agenda

website update re future changes by Val Curtis, website contractor hired by Is Rec to help OMRT Comm: Robin and Tim shared results of recent mtgs with Val Curtis re the update. No time yet scheduled by Curtis in '22 for this work. Q&A's used by Curtis to understand client's goals fr website is attached below fyi. **Please review and let Tim and Robin know via email any comments about thier answers or the website you have.**

Suggestions fr Curtis revealed her extensive knowledge of good ideas and ways to help as well as suggestions from Robin or Tim follow below:

- a Google translate button on the home page so it's really easy for non-english speaker to find,
- a Gallery of photos on the website corresponding to the Trail by subject or one of the 8 segments,
- story map link or use on website.

Much discussion about this. Tim to lead website update effort whether on SJ Island or back on the road in America.

Google Dr houses all OMRT photos now. **All OMRT members asked to review photos they submitted and label per instructions from Tim on Google Dr re how to describe trail segment and subject matter.** The goal is to end up with only the best photos with accurate labels for easy future use by it by location or subject matter.

Sunshine Alley display by Palace Theater and Town deadline for submission of 6 display panels: Robin leading the project by working closely with Shaun Hubbard and Sandy Strehlou, Town FH Historic Pres. Coordtr. Deadline of late Mar/early April upcoming for 6 panels stressing SJ Is history and only a bit about the proposed OMRT. A new 'schemata' is desired by Town with a problem better resolution of photos needed. Prior submission of photos did not enlarge well enough for public display. **Robin to work with Shaun and Julie to see if photo issues/new photos will work better and have permission to use for every photo.**

Robin noted the OMRT Comm can have some small labels below the panel informing viewers about the OMRT or OMRT website and/or possibly a QR code for smart phone users to access more info. Julie Fonseca volunteered to help with finding permission to use photos, and possibly Andy fr SJ Hist Museum may help. Tim can help make sure any QR code remains useful and correct for the life of the panels, which would be up for 1 yr fr installation at the expense of the Town even though the panels will be donated to the Commttee (Island Rec) after the display ends for use elsewhere.

2nd cut Film by M. Noonan discussion: Long discussion where all agreed **2nd cut is much, much better.** The film now flows more evenly and tells a story. All agreed a 3rd cut would be good to further improve with small changes the overall story and even better engage the viewer. As one

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person said, "Who ever heard of a movie that only had two edits or cuts before the final release." Everyone wants the best possible film even if that takes a little more time and a little more work.

Suggestions fr OMRT Committee follow:

All agreed more emphasis needed about Indigenous people by still shots or otherwise. Esp. for Cowichan Nation since the orig road by Hudson Bay Co. was called the "Cowichan Rd", even though other indigenous laborers helped build it. The OMRT Committee desires **a specific reference to the Cowichans** if possible since they have been so willing to discuss the possibility of sharing with OMRT Comm their ancestral connection to the Rd. (To date the discussion with Cowichans has been severely interrupted by Covid issues.) Also an aside re the Cowichans: **Tim will help Jeff try to get copies of Cowichan history books we ordered to be picked up on Vancouver Is and then mailed to 4 committee members who want one each.)**

Other suggestions involved:

- more photos and emphasis on conservation values** of all types of flora and fauna, possibly fox or stills of other mammals, birds, flowers, insects, amphibians, etc. More living creatures to highlight the value of nature the trail promotes as a prime outdoor educator.
- Less time looking at talking heads** (Would a voiceover after speaker starts talking with a cut then to photos of the subject matter?)
- Introduction to the OMRT project earlier in the film** to more clearly connect to later comments about the project - closer to beginning as trail seems to emerge later
- a few more photos of trail users** esp. horseriders & bikers to emphasize multi-use aspects of OMRT
- a more specific acknowledgement of the two big conservation agencies:** the SJ County Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust
- a clear thank you to the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District for supporting the OMRT - credits**

Dave and one other OMRT member to try to meet with Michael soon or relay these suggestions to him. Several Committee members may send very specific ideas to him about what they think are easy changes to improve the film.

Old business:

- OMRT proposed route map** used to display the cross-island route over Cady Mtn and other individual map segments - Mark and Jim discussed the new and GPS accurate map of all 8 segments and the 4 included maps of 2 segments each for easier planning and commo with public. Maps on OMRT Google Dr. - look for latest version.
- League of Women voters presentation** - **Jim to lead and will recruit one other OMRT member to present on Feb 14th date.** Unsure if Via Zoom (League has it own tech support person) and/or in person.
- Cowichan Nation update** by Jeff re who is the new liaison for tribe from two contacts given to him. and status of those recommended books about the tribe's history. Tribe still very cautious about outside contact given Omicron surge. Jeff to report in future.

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-**New SJ County Parks Superintendent, Brandon Cadwell** (formerly a SJINHP ranger) already contacted and anxious to reconnect with OMRT members and project. **Jim and Dave will meet with him in future to discuss revision or SJ County Parks, Trails and Natural areas plan.** Cadwell is the lead on that for 3 SJ County depts who rely on the plan: Land Bank, Public Works and Parks Dept.

-**Boy Scout work projects in summer 2022** - **Dave to work with Eric Stone** to gain details of what help is desired and where and when the Boy Scouts will be on Island. .

-**English Camp OMRT trailhd sign and other info signage** - Jeff in contact with Elexis Fredy of NPS and she is ready to get template for signage from OMRT Committee. She will seek grant money to fund all signage on English Camp land incl. installation. Discussion about which trail for info signs and how preserve and protect but recognize existin spur route still very visible by walking up Mltchell Hill between the middle and the north trail. Recognition any new trail requires compliance with all NPS regs and could lead to damage to existing spur still visible. **Jeff, Mark and Jim to discuss main issues re English Camp access and exact route desired by Committee and potential signage along the way.** **Shaun Hubbard to assist in creation of a template trhd sign** (american Camp model) but probably cannot do until whatever assistance is needed for Sunshine Alley display finished. Jeff to coordinate with Shaun and Robin re how to proceed.

Question arose based on observation by Will Hamilton that one/or more fire-scarred trees near Cady mtn are older than European settlement. **Q. What is the Indigenous activity/people and use of land at English Camp? Q. Is burning around Garry oak meadows on south side of Young Hill prior to European settlement still visible?**

(Note: **Mike Vouri offered the following email re this issue** on Jan 15th. "The National Park Service started a prescribed fire program on the south slope of Young Hill in the late 90s in three units. The goal was the preservation of the Garry Oak woodland. At the time of the fires we found no evidence of prehistoric burning, but not for the want of trying. This has been a bone of contention among historians and anthropologists. The park documented the fires and those reports should be available."

-**PWorks projects report** - **Jim reported his will stay in touch with Christine Coray at SJC P. Wrks about road projects and trail issues.** Bailer Hill not yet fully designed to be built in 2023/24 with widened shoulder but no separate footpath. Widening and raising (to avoid winter flooding) by culvert - fr intersection False Bay Rd - Ranchos Rd?

-Quick discussion **re Land Bank presentation in Nov. (Community Conversation on 11/10 on LdBk website) re future Ld Bk acquisitions** and future of OMRT connections.

Next OMRT Mtg: Feb 19th, 9-11 at Island Rec Conf Rm and via Zoom