

**CITY OF OREGON CITY
HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 22, 2012**

**City Hall – Commission Chambers
625 Center Street, Oregon City**

Board Members Present:

Jon McLoughlin
Cindy Towle
Derek Metson
Vicki Yates
Robert Siewert

Staff Present:

Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Associate Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McLoughlin called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presentation by Brian Vaughn, Metro Senior Natural Resource Scientist, Providing an Update on Work Being Performed at the Canemah Bluffs Open Space Area

Brian Vaughn, Metro Senior Natural Resource Scientist, and Jonathan Solus??, Metro Science and Stewardship Division Manager, gave an update on Metro's work in Canemah including an introduction to the Canemah Bluff, Canemah Bluff Natural Resource Conservation and Site Management Plan, next steps and projects, Canemah Bluff archeological investigation, and monitoring of cultural resources during future project work.

Ms. Robertson-Gardinar said there was a portion next to the Children's Park that was in the Canemah National Register District. If there was development proposed on that section, the Historic Review Board would review it.

b. Public Comment on Canemah Bluffs Presentation

Cap Hedges, resident of Portland, and David Hedges, resident of West Linn, were brothers who were descendants and stakeholders of Absalom Hedges, founder of Canemah. Mr. Cap Hedges said prior to Metro purchasing the site, a study was conducted in 1996 that indicated the historic and natural resources on the bluff. In 2007 Metro removed 200 trees from the historic site. They gave the Canemah Neighborhood Association one week notice and moved in heavy equipment. A meeting was held and the head of the project wrote a letter stating Metro's commitment to the bluff and its historic significance. In 2008 stories came out in the *Oregonian* regarding the archeological significance of the Canemah Bluff. His appeal was that the HRB, Planning Department, and City Commission curtail the re-entering and removing trees and operating on Cemetery Road until further study. A lot of environmental damage had already been done.

Mr. David Hedges distributed documentation regarding the historical significance of Cemetery Road. The road was part of a Native American trail used by early pioneers. When Metro removed the trees they did so with the permission of the Canemah Cemetery Association who did not follow the prescribed formula laid out in the Oregon Revised Statutes. He requested any further non cemetery use of Cemetery Road conform to the law. He further requested that Metro and the Canemah Cemetery Association recognize there was historical significance.

Chair McLoughlin stated the HRB did not have jurisdiction over this area, and they would have to take the request to the City Commission.

Paul Edgar, Land Use Chair of the Canemah Neighborhood Association, brought a map from the Clackamas County website of Oregon City in 1844-46 that showed how Cemetery Road was the singular road out of Oregon City going south into the Willamette Valley. A factual survey was done of the Canemah neighborhood residents. They saw the tragedy of the initial grading of the historic wagon road by Metro and they did not want it to happen again. He was not against cutting of the trees, but was concerned about the impact to the road.

Michael Jones represented the Mt. Hood Sacred Lands Preservation Alliance. Before Metro bought the Canemah Bluffs, he had warned them that there were cultural resources there and development would destroy it. He recommended a cultural resource survey, but all that was done was an archeological survey. He asked that the HRB not approve anything with this project until more input was given on the value of cultural resources in this area.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said if this was sent to the City Commission, she would write a staff background report. She asked the Metro representatives to address the issue.

Mr. Vaughn said Metro had contacted the stakeholders, neighbors, and the tribes. Some comments had been sent and would be incorporated into the plan. They did not do the higher level investigations but were open to listening to any information. They were working to have little or no impact on Cemetery Road. The project was moving from the planning phase to development phase where there would be neighborhood meetings and stakeholders would be contacted.

Mr. Solus?? stated the work they were doing was honoring the cultural and biological history of the site and helping it become closer to what it was when it was a Native American managed area and to keep it from becoming a Douglas Fir forest. They were doing it as sensitively as possible and were going to great lengths to engage the community.

Mr. Siewert thought it was a matter of trust and Metro needed to do it right. Ms. Towle said there needed to be better understanding in the community.

c. Ermatinger House Update

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Ermatinger House that had been shown to the City Commission on May 8 including historic images and the issues found on the exterior, basement, first floor, and second floor. She then discussed the rehabilitation plan and ADA ramp. There had to be a decision about how much restoration to do and how it would be promoted. She explained the funding that had been collected, how much more would be needed, and other funding options.

Ms. Robertson-Gardiner said the Preservation Survey was approved by the City Commission. She would be working to put together a GIS app that would allow the user to click on any survey form on a GIS map.

3. ADJOURN

Chair McLoughlin adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.