

DESC Meeting Notes – Summary
North and south bank enhancements
October 23, 2012

September 5, 2012

The committee agrees with using Justin Lanphear to design the enhancement for the North Bank. Boulders are to be a key element, with focus on both the north and south side of the pedestrian path. The key is to create a spot people can stop at and enjoy the river and surrounding areas while being consistent with the natural environment.

The committee also requested clarification and/or additional information on logs that have previously discussed that would be placed on the north bank near the existing trail system. If they are to be installed, they should be considered along with other design enhancements on the north bank.

The committee agrees with using Justin Lanphear to also help with design of any enhancements to the south bank. The committee is still concerned about the two displays being planned for the south side and how they will fit with any other enhancements. The committee would like to at least meet with the key people involved with the displays and provide suggestions and better understand what will be installed.

With limited space on the south bank, the committee wants to move forward with a specific location to establish a spot for people to enjoy the view of the bridge, the river and surrounding areas. The key is anything built needs to be consistent with the surrounding areas and of very low impact on the existing environment.

May 16, 2012

Next steps for other north bank enhancements. DESC briefly discussed the remaining enhancements for the north bank area. Included is the area between the two paths under the Canoe Canal bridges and the north bank of the river under the Willamette River bridges. Members saw the importance of these also moving forward soon. Consensus was that it was more expedient to consider working with Cameron McCarthy (Justin) who is already under contract and has done previous work. Need clarification from Sonny on process, but prefer to address finalized recommendations on these enhancements and present to the Parks Advisory for approval before taking them to the CAG/PDT. Any enhancements for the South Bank may be considered at the same time.

December 20, 2011

North bank under bridges — Chris asked for clarification about what is currently recommended for the north bank under the rivers. DESC has not recommended anything at this point. Drawing by Justin Lanphear shows what would be standard ODOT slope paving installed on both sides of path. To date Eugene parks has indicated they are not supportive of formal bike racks in this area.

Scott emphasized the priority is to have whatever is done not distract from the river. The river should be the focus. The concept of distributing some large boulders in the area between the path and river would allow places for people to sit, lean their bikes and enjoy river. Stones could be placed in two to three areas depending on funds available. Focus is to eliminate slope paving between the path and the river leaving it in a more natural state.

Charlotte and Vicky asked about ODOT funds to pay for standard slope paving if nothing else is slated for the area. Sonny agreed funds from the construction project would be needed. Could be in the range of \$25,000 as discussed in the area of the Canoe Canal. Members feel any funds from construction should be available to match with design enhancement funds to increase what might be installed.

The group agreed to set-aside any remaining funds from the north bank design enhancement budget for use on the north bank. The total available is \$47,836.

Area between paved and soft path under Canoe Canal Bridges — The agreement for this area includes \$25,000 already available from the construction budget and setting aside another \$25,000 from design enhancement budget making the total \$50,000. Justin Lanphear is working on some preliminary sketches and estimates of what can be done in this area for \$50,000. Key issues to be addressed include the slope and ability of users to easily go from the hard path to the soft path and/or the need for a curb or railing on the hard path to keep bikers from going off the path down the slope. He will present his recommendations at the next parks advisory meeting on Jan. 6, 2012.

South bank area — Chris provided information from the City of Eugene regarding this area. It is not in the park and not in ODOT right-of-way. Two ideas for consideration include art piece (sculpture) to be agreed on by City Art Commission and/or a partnership to redo the signage on the bank near Franklin Boulevard that welcomes people to Eugene. Given the amount of funds available, the sculpture is probably not feasible.

DESC discussion:

Vicky reiterated the limited space available to do anything.

Charlotte's preference is to combine what funds are available with the historic displays complementing with art pieces or something else.

Joe encouraged enhancing some of the area east of the Knickerbocker Bridge, which provides some of the best views of the new bridge.

Chris suggested use of basalt to create areas to stop and sit or just as enhancements might be worth considering given the geologic make-up of this area.

Scott recommends whatever is done is with respect to the area east of Knickerbocker Bridge being a “soft place,” as to not distract from the naturalness of this area.

Charlotte suggested that the funds for south bank be provided to the Tribe to combine with what they are already going to do with the displays. Best way to ensure staying with the overall theme and making the money go the furthest.

It was agreed that too little is known about the displays to be installed, where they would be located, how they would be viewed and other issues. Sonny indicated no work has been done yet, but reiterated that separate funds are available to pay for them.

Douglas said it is important for the committee to reach a final recommendation on all the remaining design enhancement funds.

The committee agreed to set-aside \$60,000 for south bank enhancements using the \$32,000 already designated and \$28,000 from the available contingency.