



Heritage Farm Sustainability Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 7, 2022, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
In-Person and Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members: Erik Harrison, Teresa Meyer, Kristine Perry, Rob Freed*, Bill Cline, Zorah Oppenheimer, Ila Stanek, Mark Wreath, Marcela Munoz, Tanika Siscoe, Jazlyn Faulstick, Cowlitz Tribe member

Clark County: Rocky Houston, Lynde Wallick, Amy Arnold, David Stipe, Zane Karver

Guests and Other: Clark Worth, Katie Wilson, Sandy Brown, Tanna Engdahl, Kirk Gresham, Judie Stanton, Larry & Lynn Grell, Michael Langsdorf, Keith Scott, Shantell Kristina, Jackie Lane, 360-601-8052

* Not Present

1:01 PM Welcome

1:02 PM Introductions

Katie started and each person in the room introduced themselves.

1:04 PM Heritage Farm – Current & Proposed Uses

1:04 PM Current Uses – Sandy Brown

Sandy indicated that the Heritage Farm Advisory Team consults with the Clark County Parks department about projects and activities on the farm, noting that they have been in existence since 2010. She said they facilitate conversations and advice around farm management, projects and any master plan work, and also assist in event planning. She said they give that information and any recommendations they may have to the Parks department. From there, the Parks department will issue leases as needed.

Sandy provided an annual report from 2021 with summaries on volunteer hours, value of produce and amount of outside funding to support programs.

Ila, Sandy and Rocky discussed the importance of having each organization's report on the yearly summary. Rocky, Sandy, Lynde, and Kristine discussed whether each of the partners has something on the farm itself or within the administrative building. Jazlyn, Sandy, Erik and Rocky discussing the parking spaces available at Heritage Farm.

1:20 PM County & WSU Farm Expenses – Rocky Houston

Rocky reviewed the PowerPoint slides noting the difference between the WSU Extension's costs and the Farm operations costs. He indicated that two Capital projects were also done within the last five years – the West Parking lot project and the Irrigation project and noted that the County also provides

information technology support to the WSU Extension, which includes computers, IT, and network support. Rocky answered the question as to why the County is treating the farm differently from other properties noting that we are not – we go through the same process, looking for cost recoveries, as we do with other properties.

Zorah and Rocky discussed the cost recovery at Heritage Farm versus Luke Jensen. Zorah, Rocky, and Lynde also discussed the cash contributions for Heritage Farm and the WSU Extension services. Lynde said she has a presentation from WSU to County Council that discusses the funding sources – she said she would share this with the group.

1:33 PM 2020 Master Plan Uses – David Stipe

David reviewed the 2010 Master Plan and the 2020 Master Plan and the similarities, also noting the differences between them which include changes to the trail alignment, enhancement on the wetland project, and elimination of one of the buildings. He discussed the 2022 Capital Improvement Plan, mentioning the 2023-2028 plan, and referenced what projects the County is hoping to accomplish.

Sandy, Rocky, and Lynde discussed the processes for historic preservation to make sure the project(s) follow the historic and maintenance plan.

1:43 PM Community Survey: Preliminary Results – Katie Wilson

Katie discussed the PowerPoint slide going over the results of the survey. Rocky asked a question about what “tax dollars” means and Katie answered indicating it is dedicated funding. Katie said one of the common themes from the survey results was to increase the community’s awareness at the Farm.

Lynde asked that everyone forward the survey to the people they are representing and to let her know if there are any other groups of people or folks in general that we should share the survey with. Katie said they will go over the results of the survey at the Open House in December 2022.

Ila, Kristine and Rocky discussed the community plots available at the Farm. Rocky, Bill, and Ila discussed the neighborhood associations’ involvement with the community plots.

1:51 PM Economic Framework – Clark Worth

Clark explained that to help achieve the County Council’s goals for the site, two economists from Globalwise Inc. and E.D. Hovee & Co., both Clark County firms, have evaluated the Farm in two aspects – from an agricultural standpoint and from a redevelopment standpoint. Clark reviewed what the agricultural economist determined from their evaluation, pointing out various pros and cons of maintaining it as a farming site. He explained which crops would and would not be profitable here for future use. Clark also reviewed the developmental standpoint and what would happen if the site was redeveloped, giving examples of the types of property(s) it could become. Regarding financial sustainability, it all depends on what type of company develops the site and what their costs and investments might be.

2:02 PM Visioning Exercise – Clark Worth & Katie Wilson

**Note – during the Visioning Exercise, there were some technical difficulties, and the audio and video was lost for several moments.

An open discussion about the 3 questions in the packet:

- 1) What phrase best captures your vision for the future of Heritage Farm?

- 2) What's missing here today to help you get to your vision?
- 3) How can we achieve the County Council's goal for the Heritage Farm site?

Regarding question number one – various people offered suggestions like a place to learn about farming history and the environment, a place to teach about learn about sustainable food, a place for people to get research services and education for all their different kind of farming, projects, and lifestyle habits, and where working demonstrations could be held, involving both the community and youth.

Regarding question number two – various people offered suggestions like increasing public awareness of the farm, increasing public engagement on a regular schedule by offering guided tours or classes, offering education about what happens after the harvest, providing education regarding the historical value of the site, and perhaps updating the aesthetics of the farm to offer a more historical look and feel.

Regarding question number three – various people offered suggestions like providing an updated budget for the farm to better show its operational costs, exploring fundraising and donation options, increasing public access to the farm either on a regular schedule or by hosting events and/or activities, and by promoting memberships to the farm for various projects or trail exploration groups.

2:52 PM Public Open House – Katie Wilson

Katie indicated when the Public Open House will occur – on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m at the Bud Van Cleve Meeting Room at the Luke Jensen Sports Complex located at 4000 NE 78th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to join. All of the groups and farm partners will be there and will share information about what they do at the farm. It's a great opportunity to raise awareness for the Farm.

2:53 PM Next Steering Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 30, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting location might have to be changed from the Heritage Farm Administration Building to the Luke Jensen Sports Complex conference room – we will communicate that change in the future.

2:54 PM Adjourn

Submitted by Amy Arnold, Secretary