

# Clallam County Trails Advisory Committee September 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

## WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened and those present introduced themselves.

*Members Present:* Andy Stevenson, Dick Gritman, Charlie Commeree, Bob Lake, Chuck Preble, Jason Anderson, Jennifer Reandeau, Kat Sample, and Justin Zarzeczny.

*County Staff:* Steve Gray, County Public Works-Road Department

5 members of the public were also present.

## MEETING NOTES:

The August 21, 2019 meeting notes were approved without amendment.

## DISCUSSION:

1. *Presentation by Brian King, Chief Criminal Deputy, on Clallam County Sheriff Department Planned Volunteer Patrol Program on the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT).*

Brian King began by summarizing the Sheriff Department operations on the ODT. Focus of Deputy Patrols has been along the ODT waterfront east of the City of Port Angeles and in response to emergencies and criminal activities and reports on the trail. They also typically have a presence during major ODT events. Brian also summarized examples of types of criminal activities that have occurred on the ODT ranging from several assaults to car break-ins in parking lots. The Sheriff Patrol in general has used ATV's in conducting patrols and responding to emergencies and criminal alerts on the ODT.

Brian noted the Sheriff Department has been looking at ways to improve presence on the ODT. Sheriff volunteers expressed the idea of creating an ODT Volunteer Patrols. This idea is now moving towards implementation with the creation of an ODT Patrol Auxiliary as follows:

- Initially training about 10 volunteers to support the patrol.
- Equipping the volunteers with Ebikes (Sheriff Department purchased four Ebikes).
- Ebikes will be pedal assist and equipped with radios, first aid kits, and AED's.
- The Ebikes would be deployed out of Port Angeles and Blyn areas (2 in each area).
- Volunteer patrol members will be uniformed, but will not be in an enforcement capacity. They are intended to be another set of eyes and a presence on the trail to assist in emergencies and call in support, as needed.
- Volunteer patrol members will have experience in emergency services and/or law enforcement.

Ebikes will also be used by Deputy Patrols as a more ODT friendly alternative to ATV's. ATV use will still continue, as needed, for emergency and criminal activity responses.

The Sheriff Department plans to deploy the ODT volunteer patrols this year following volunteer training. A volunteer member training book has been drafted. The program will be supported and funded by the Sheriff Department.

Based on questions received, Mr. King responded:

- Focus of Sheriff Deputies will continue to be on crime, particularly the waterfront areas and where theft, vandalism and assault reported.
- The volunteers will patrol from east to west out of Port Angeles and Blyn.
- County Sheriff Department not pursuing enforcing trail infractions such as trail speeds. Not the best use of limited Sheriff resources.
- Typical speed radars used by the Sheriff Department are not effective for bikes. There are radars (e.g., laser-based) that can be effective, but are not currently used by Sheriff Department.
- Volunteer trail patrol can help with providing trail information and encouraging safe trail use and courtesy practices.

Trail advisory committee members expressed appreciation for implementing a volunteer program, and hope the program will be expanded in the future such as to patrol ODT sections that are further west.

In regards to the Volunteer Patrol uniform design, the Committee supported the message “Sheriff Volunteer” versus “Trail Volunteer” on the back of the uniform. The Committee believed “Sheriff Volunteer” would provide a clear connection to the Sheriff Department presence, and to distinguish from the many ODT trail maintenance volunteers.

2. *Recommendation on format of trailhead and route identification signage for the ODT-Adventure Trail.*

Chuck Preble presented draft sign templates for the trailhead and route identification signs for the Olympic Adventure Trail. Both signs will follow the same new signage layout and design as the main ODT trail, except the trail name on the sign will be Olympic Adventure Trail (OAT). Discussion followed on selection of a “tag line” on the trailhead identification sign unique to the OAT. One idea floated was “*A Taste of the Backcountry.*” A decision on the tag line was tabled to the October meeting with everyone encouraged to think about ideas and, if possible, email them to Steve to compile a list in advance of the next-meeting.

3. *Changing Trails Advisory Committee meeting day and/or start time to move meetings into the larger Commissioners Meeting Room.*

Discussion was had on changing the meeting day and/or start time to move the Trail Advisory Committee meeting room venue to the larger Commissioners Meeting Room. Steve noted that the current meeting room in the County Commissioners office (Small Conference Room) is very limited in seating and space. Seating is very tight when all committee members are

present and the room can only accommodate a very limited number of public attendees. The Commissioners Meeting Room is more accessible to the public and has built-in sound and recording system. It also can be set-up for live meeting streaming that the County Commissioners encourage use of for advisory committees. The Committee expressed overall support for moving to the larger Commissioners room based on these reasons, although several members noted the like the Small Conference Room setting.

Three options for meeting room changes were discussed:

Option 1 – Move to 1st Wednesday of the Month with same 1:30 pm start time.

Option 2 – Keep current 3rd Wednesday but move start time to 3:00 pm. Would need to change time, because the Peninsula Housing Authority already has room reserved from on same day from 1 – 2:30 pm (may go longer).

Option 3 – Move to 4th Wednesday of the Month with same 1:30 pm start time.

Steve Gray noted that Committee members Gary Gleason and Dave Burt who were not able to attend today's meeting were okay with all three options, but that Gary noted the second option is not preferred because of proximity to the County Planning Commission that he also serves on that starts at 6:00 pm the same day . Bob Lake indicated he was not able to attend the first, Wednesday of the month (Option 1) due to prior commitment, but noted that he would likely not be continuing on the Committee in 2020.

Following discussion, the consensus was to change the meeting venue to the Commissioner Meeting Room and to change the meeting day from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month. The meeting start time would remain the same at 1:30 pm. The first meeting in 2020 in the Commissioners Meeting Room will be on February 5, 2020 due to the first Wednesday in January falling on a holiday.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Steve provided the following ODT project updates:

- *ODT Spruce Railroad Trail – Final Phase.* Expecting Western Federal Lands to go out to bid this fall with construction commencing in early-2020, with the hope of completion in 2020.
- *ODT Gosset Road to Waterline Road.* Contract awarded and construction to start soon. Andy Stevenson commented that he strongly supports the County make paving the Waterline Road between this new segment and the ODT-Spruce Railroad Trail segment a priority.
- *ODT Freshwater Bay to Thompson Road.* Paving is complete. Bollards, separated horse trail, and signage still needing to be completed. Andy Stevenson noted how nice and smooth this new section of both non-motorized trail and shared roadway is to ride. He also noted that it now allows for an alternative to bike riding on SR 112 for over a 1-mile section on the nearly level former rail grade. He encourages moving forward with signage,

including on SR 112, to this new segment even though connecting non-motorized links not yet constructed. Jennifer Reandeau supported adding a horse dismount station.

- *ODT Forks to Sitkum-Sol Duc Road (aka. A-Road)*. Appraisal is complete for lands needing to be acquired to complete the route across the Calawah River to the Sitkum-Sol Duc Road (aka. A-Road). The County has provided the appraisal to the landowner to support acquisition process.
- *ODT Forks to La Push (Along SR 110/La Push Road)*. Survey work continues to progress. This information needed to support right-of-way planning phase.

### **ODT MAINTENANCE REPORTS**

Steve provided update of planned repairs with volunteer help at ODT- Dean Creek Bridge in Blyn. He also noted the Morse Creek parking lot resurfacing and pothole repair by County; and the recent County volunteer trail crew efforts to clear and fill in holes on the horse bypass route west of the Joyce-Piedmont Road.

Chuck Preble cited need for road-side mowing at least once a year for segments where ODT alignment shares a County road such as along the Dawley Rd., Mary Clark Rd., Coopers Ranch Rd. and other shared roadways.

It was noted that ODT section from Fairholm Hill to the Spruce Railroad Trail was in need of vegetation trimming and brushing.

Dick Gritman noted locks on some of the bollards are unserviceable. He has spoken to Tanner Boggs, County Volunteer Coordinator, about getting lock replacements.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A comment was received supporting removal of motorcycle barriers on the Adventure Trail. Believes such barriers are no longer needed.

### **NEXT – MEETING**

The next regular-meeting of the TAC will be on October 16, 2019. The meeting will include continued discussion to select a “tag line” unique to the ODT-Adventure Trail for the new trailhead identification signs. County staff will also review the Draft Six-Year (2020-25) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as it relates to the ODT.