

ORR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN FOCUS GROUP MEETING NOTES

September 28, 2001

As part of the DOE-ORO effort to increase public involvement in the land use planning process for the ORR, a working meeting of the Focus Group was held at the City of Oak Ridge's Public Works Building on Woodbury Lane at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. September 28, 2001.

Attendees

The following members of the Focus Group were in attendance: Steve Alexander, Paul Boyer, Pete Craven, Scott Davis, Ray Evans, Steve Griffith, Parker Hardy, Dev Joslin, Robert Kennedy, Ralph Lillard, Marty Marina, Dave McKinney, David Mosby, Bill Pardue, Lorene Sigal, Lloyd Stokes, Joe Valentino, Marshall Whisnant, Lawrence Young, and Beth Phillips (Tony Grande alternate).

Members of the Facilitation Group in attendance were Barry Lawson, Pat Parr, Marianne Heiskell, Wayne Tolbert and Mike Deacon. Steve Wyatt (DOE-ORO) Public Affairs and Linda Ponce, Congressman Wamp's District Manager also was present. Approximately 6 to 8 members of the public attended all or part of the meeting. Norman Mulvenon, Robert Peele and Susan Gawarecki commented to the Focus Group during the meeting. Ed Cumeasty introduced Dan Wilken and David Mosby who discussed the proposal to transfer the AMSE to the City of Oak Ridge.

Introductions

Lloyd Stokes is replacing Steve Buxton on the Focus Group and Lorene Sigal has recently been added. The proposed meeting agenda was discussed, agreed upon, and followed.

Procedures

Barry Lawson used two handouts to help discuss his role as facilitator and some possible Focus Group procedures. There was general agreement on most points in both handouts. It was stated that meeting "notes" and not minutes would be made available in draft form to Focus Group members approximately two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled Focus Group meeting (October 12, 2001 being an exception). In addition to the meeting on October 12, the Focus Group will meet November 9 and December 14. Several themes emerged during this part of the agenda. For instance, many Focus Group members felt a strong need for a mission statement and a defined path forward (i.e., what is DOE expecting from the Focus Group, on what schedule, and how will DOE use the input provided by the Focus Group in decision making?). Interim actions by DOE should also be possible (i.e., DOE should make some land use decisions quickly and get them off the table—potential actions should be identified as soon as practicable). It was clarified that interim actions may be taken so that all projects do not have to wait for the Focus Group to complete its task. There was also some general agreement that there would be a final report of the Focus Group to DOE and that the facilitator would assist in its preparation. In addition, there was tentative agreement on a process for each meeting. The outline of this process is as follows:

- Welcome, Introductions
- Notes from previous meeting

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- Public comment
- Announcements
- Status report on program and/or presentations [or discussions on main topic(s) for that meeting]
- Activities for the Focus Group
- Public comment
- Topics to be considered for next meetings agenda (lunch would fit in where appropriate)

One member asked if the Focus Group was unanimous in making a recommendation to DOE, could the Group expect a formal response from DOE. Marianne Heiskell took the action item to get back to Focus Group by the next meeting with an answer.

Regarding procedures, the facilitator responded to a question about majority rule and voting. His response was, that from time to time he would poll the Focus Group for a sense of the strength of feeling about an issue but both majority and minority opinions and ideas would be discussed and documented. Regarding press inquiries and spokesperson(s), the Focus Group agreed that anyone can talk to anyone, but when talking to the media it must be clear that they are speaking only for themselves and not the Focus Group and they should be courteous and use decorum.

The facilitator made a commitment to revise the procedures, including a more thorough suggestion regarding consensus seeking, and to finalize the description of his role.

Announcements

Ed Cumesty (DOE) introduced Dan Wilken who made a viewgraph presentation to the Focus Group outlining the status of the City of Oak Ridge proposal to take over operation of the American Museum of Science and Energy. The City's proposal to DOE is that the City gets fee title to the Museum facility and 2.5 acres along Illinois Avenue. Additional conditions included that the City commits to a minimum of 5 years operation; no restrictions on City's ability to sell land or use of facility; and DOE does not commit any continuing operational funding. The City is asking for fee title to Clark Center Park (80 acres), with the only restrictions being that the City agrees to maintain it as a recreation area for a minimum of 5 years. The City also requests the transfer of fee title to Parcel G (18 acres). David Mosby then presented the City councils perspective on the proposed transfer of the museum. Negotiations are underway and both city representatives and DOE (Ed Cumesty) indicated they felt an agreement could be reached; however, DOE would likely not include a fee title transfer of Clark Center Park as part of the package.

Presentation by Pat Parr

Pat Parr presented an overview of the current ORR Comprehensive Integrated Planning Process, the ORNL Land and Facilities Plan, and outlined the various types of data ORNL has available for the reservation. Focus Group members were provided handouts of the slides and the types of map data available.

While there were many comments and some questions the most noticeable concern was the desire by many Focus Group members to have a map prepared that would show them what ORR lands DOE is “putting on the table.” Such a map would help the Focus Group “focus” on lands where their recommendations would be useful. There was a strong sentiment that the Focus Group did not want to waste its time on land that DOE has committed to mission or other “off the table” uses. The facilitation team agreed to make a best effort to get such a map and the criteria DOE used in preparing the map by the October 12 meeting. Marianne Heiskell will spearhead this effort for DOE. It was noted that DOE programs would not have validated the information in the map and thus the information was subject to some future changes. The Focus Group seemed to feel the map, even with these limitations, was an essential piece of data they needed to go forward.

Future Planning Activities

Barry Lawson outlined a general set of activities the facilitation team had envisioned the Focus Group would address. These included reviewing current land use data (map of land DOE wants Focus Group to recommend various alternative uses); DOE Program input on mission needs; other organizations input/plans where such plans might be in conflict or need to be considered in a more regional context; a second cut at the land map; Focus Group identify/suggest potential uses (alternatives) for these lands; identify the consequences associated with these alternatives; make recommendations to DOE; and fold input from Focus Group into the next Comprehensive Integrated Plan (CIP). The form of the Focus Group input to DOE was discussed and the idea of generating a report was discussed. A suggestion was made that the Focus Group address preferred and potential use alternatives. There was considerable discussion on how much input from regional or other planning bodies could be incorporated in the time the Focus Group has to perform its mission. The Focus Group also discussed the role of the NEPA process in relation to the 1999 CIP and the current integrated land use planning.

The Focus Group discussed further its need for a mission statement. A suggestion for the mission statement was “determine land not needed for DOE mission and develop recommendations for the preferred and potential uses of that land.” Some more detailed ideas that might be included in a mission statement were—use a 20 year planning horizon, preserve specific land for DOE missions, cut federal costs, enhance development of Oak Ridge and East Tennessee areas, enhance property values and quality of life and conservation of some lands in perpetuity. The facilitator said that he would work with the Facilitation Group to draft a good mission statement for the Focus Group to consider at the next meeting.

There was also a desire expressed that Leah Dever be present at all meetings and the desire for decisions to be made in real time.

Comments from the Public

Members of the public addressed the Focus Group suggesting that the End Use Working Group Report be used, that a long time horizon be used, that uses of land adjacent to any surplus or underutilized DOE land be considered, and that early public involvement is better than late involvement.

Some Key Points Made by Focus Group

- A clear mission statement is needed
- A map of land for which DOE wants alternatives is needed
- The path forward by the Focus Group and how its inputs will be used should be addressed in more detail
- Some interim actions by DOE should probably proceed
- Status of NEPA in relation to CIP needs further discussion