

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team

Overview

January 2010



CCRT Members

Dwayne Aberle, Security State Bank
Del Ames, Title Guaranty
Brenda Book, Farmers Market
Tom Bradley, Thomas D. Bradley, PS
Shelly Clemens, Bicoastal Media
Judy DeVaul, DeVaul Publishing
David Hartz, Book 'n Brush
Ralph Hubbert, Tires, Inc.
Debbie Knapp, Lewis Co. Historical Museum
Dick Larman, Lewis County EDC
Greg Lund, Century 21 Lund Realtors

Merlin MacReynold, Chehalis City Manager
Larry McGee, Retired IBM (CCRT Chair)
Mitch Moberg, Twin Cities Trading Post
Dr. Isaac Pope, Chehalis City Council
Allyn Roe, Cheh-Cent Airport (CCRT Vice Chair)
Jim Rothlin, Port of Chehalis
Bill Schulte, Board of County Commissioners
Gail Shaw, Chehalis Industrial Commission
Jim Valley, Cent-Chehalis Chamber
Staff Support:
Caryn Foley, City Manager's Admin. Asst.
Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director
Bob Nacht, Community Development Mgr.

We need people who want to work and get involved



The plan, bottom line and mission

What is the Chehalis Renaissance Plan?

A citywide plan with projects in community building, economic development, quality design, traffic & parking, and downtown development.

What is the Overall Goal---the Bottom Line?

Make the Chehalis area a more attractive place in which to live, enhance job opportunities and involvement of youth; grow tourism traffic; and grow the retail base to enhance local shopping.

What is the Mission of the CCRT (Chehalis Community Renaissance Team)?

Driven by voluntary leadership, broad community participation and using disciplined project management, implement the Council-approved plan.



Renaissance Background

- RFQ process with many firms
- Selected consultant Tom Beckwith
- Steering committee formed for guidance
- Many public meetings/open houses
- Draft plans and guidelines developed and refined
- Final action plan was completed and approved--- five areas
 - Community Building
 - Economic Development
 - Quality Design
 - Traffic & Parking
 - Downtown Development



Community Building Tasks

- Implement New Chehalis Brand
 - Signage, website, logo, tagline
- Initiate Young Chehalis Outreach
 - Young professionals group
- Adopt Main Street Program
 - National program, retain, recruit, promote, and improve
 - Business directory & walking tour
 - Arts festival & sculpture walk
 - Farmers Market



Economic Development Tasks

- Initiate Business Retention & Recruitment Program
 - Downtown real estate, art galleries
- Expand Local Capital Investment
 - Façade program, small business loans
- Create an Integrated Business Incubator



Quality Design Tasks

- Adopt standards for districts, landscape, signage
- National historic signage on I-5 (park and wayfinding)
- Highlight major gateways (roundabout, building murals)
- Erect system of wayfinding signs
- Create Dillenbaugh Creek conservancy park



Quality Design Tasks

- Investigate movement of steam train boarding location
- Install street trees on major arterials
- Create gateway at the National/Market/West intersection
- Enhance Market & Boistfort downtown, including extending curbs & walkways at downtown intersections



Traffic & Parking Tasks

- Realign West Street/Market Boulevard
- Designate Park Street 1-way at library
- Incorporate left turn lanes for Main Street
- Install angle parking where feasible in downtown



Downtown Development Tasks

- Support Lewis County admin. center project
- Renovate St. Helens Hotel for mixed use
- Issue RFP for mixed use project on Washington Avenue
 - Design will include same amount of current parking
 - Project will be a competition
- Issue RFP for mixed use project on Division Street
 - Design will include same amount of current parking
 - Project will be a competition



Activities & Results

as of 1/25/10

Progress - completed

- New Chehalis logo adopted
- SCORE sub-chapter started
- First Tuesdays events started
- Traffic-calming/tree pilot on Chehalis Avenue in process
- Walking tour kickoff went well on 12/19
- New trees planted on Louisiana Avenue
- Friends of the Chehalis Community Renaissance 501(c)(3) formed
- I-5 park/historic signs are up

Progress – earlier stages

- Bid awarded 1/25 for 32 wayfinding signs
- Briefing 1/22 at WT Factory incubator in Tacoma and action plan in formulation
- Children’s museum action team formed
- Litter trial started 1/12
- Completed first pass of inventory of vacant/for sale properties
- Possible new auto event at Port will be tied to 8/7 Trains, Planes & Automobiles
- Initiating future parking structure plans
- Renaissance will soon have office on Market Blvd. in St. Helens Inn



What is different?

The Chehalis Renaissance Project . . .

- is driven by volunteers. The City is a partner.
- is counting on and encourages citizens to provide leadership and work in partnership with the CCRT.
- is primarily relying upon private investments and donations.
- will be a combination of many small, some medium, and a few large projects.

It is the chance for citizen volunteers to put a permanent positive stamp on the Chehalis area.

