

APPENDIX E: OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday August 19th members of the MIG project team and the project steering committee hosted a Community Open House to gather feedback on two design alternatives developed as part of the Dorris Ranch Master Plan Update. The following day the MIG project team met with the project steering committee to discuss community feedback and gain direction on critical issues pertaining to the development of the draft Master Plan. This discussion paper

- summarizes the feedback received during the Open House,
- outlines the issues MIG received consensus upon during the project steering committee meeting, and
- identifies additional issues that MIG needs direction upon before proceeding with the draft Master Plan for Dorris Ranch.

OPEN HOUSE

The Open House was held in the barn at Dorris Ranch between 4 p.m and 7 p.m. Community members were invited to review the two design alternatives, discuss elements with the design team and Willamalane staff, and provide comments. A list of attendees is provided at the end of this memo.

VOTES

Open House attendees provided feedback on the two alternatives that were presented. The results are tallied below and in the appendix.

Alternative A		Alternative B	
I strongly agree with the direction of the plan	2	I strongly agree with the direction of the plan	8
I agree with the direction of the plan, but I have some reservations	2	I agree with the direction of the plan, but I have some reservations	7
I disagree with the direction of the plan, but could support it with revisions	5	I disagree with the direction of the plan, but could support it with revisions	0
I strongly disagree with the direction of the plan	5	I strongly disagree with the direction of the plan	1

GENERAL COMMENTS

Open House Attendees were asked to list one to three items from the two alternatives that are exciting, concerning or intriguing to them. They were also asked to provide any additional comments pertaining to both of the design alternatives. Those responses are summarized below.

Exciting

Design elements that excited people included the redirection of traffic flow, added trails throughout the site emphasizing the oak prairie, limited vehicle access upon fewer roads but more parking, the relocation of Allen Road, and ADA accessibility. Many people commented upon elements in the plans that enhanced the education component of Dorris Ranch including the Living History Village and the added Interpretive Center. Many expressed how they supported expanding the Living History Village, feeling that would make Dorris Ranch an even greater public destination for families and school groups. Though most people wanted to keep the Living History Village in its current location, some supported relocating it. People also commented that they were excited about taking care of the wedding tree, enhanced picnic areas, providing more event and meeting space, and restoring/rehabilitating existing buildings. Finally, some commented on their desire the more natural open meadow landscape in the front entry area in Alternative B, and to reserve natural uncluttered areas throughout the site, especially along the river.

Concerning

A majority of the attendees were most concerned with the option to move the Living History Village citing that would be a waste of money, and would cause a loss of momentum for volunteers and supporters. Other concerns included the larger amount of parking, the removal of the Briggs House, too much change in general as it relates to new construction, and adding business use to the park. Some people also said they were not supportive of the agricultural gardens in the front entry area in Alternative A.

Intriguing

Elements of the designs that people found intriguing included: the river shelter, the increase in multi-use activities with a message of caution for new uses to tread lightly, changing the entry roads, the Briggs Interpretive Center, the store, trail expansion especially in terms of opening more trails for use during orchard spraying, restoration plans for the Dorris House landscape, the Living History Village, the pole barn, and enhanced parking.

Additional

Many comments that people added touched upon themes that were expressed earlier including support for the Living History Village, treading lightly on the site, emphasizing the education component, maintaining the site's historic character especially its open agricultural feel. Some newly expressed comments included using the Briggs House as the caretaker residence, support for the summer camp, continued diligence in removing invasive plants, not wanting radical fast-moving changes to the site.