

APPENDIX G: HISTORIC COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY

Rebecca Gershow, a Planner for Willamalane Park and Recreation District, met with the Springfield Historic Commission on April 8, 2008 to discuss the ongoing master planning process and provide an opportunity for Commissioner's comments. Their comments included:

- The reluctance to give structures a formal status for protection is disturbing. Not doing so leads to buildings' demise. Willamalane should nominate the Tomseth House and Briggs House to the National Register. (Clarification: the Tomseth H. could possibly be nominated as a historic home, but not part of the existing DR listing since it isn't original to DR.)
- Make the structures just as important as the land (at DR and Gray House, too).
- There is more money available for improvements (grants) if structures are on the National Register.
- I am supportive of using original structures rather than replica structures. Replicas are not as good (Williamsburg model). Be careful when building replica structures to clearly identify them and separate them from original structures – better to use the buildings that are already there. It's also less expensive to maintain fewer structures.
- It's good you've identified conifer encroachment in the Oak Woodland as an issue. It's very important to protect the woodland. It is also a good interpretation opportunity (to explain why conifer removal is necessary).
- One of the challenges to Dorris Ranch is its seeming remoteness. That hill on S. 2nd makes it feel farther from downtown than it really is.
- There should be better signage downtown to identify Dorris Ranch to motorists.
- Foot traffic at DR has definitely increased over the past 3+ years (weekly user).
- I like that you are trying to keep cars out of the interior of the Ranch.
- Dorris Ranch shouldn't be a tourist destination, but it's got to be used to be saved.
- Why is it only a 20-year plan? You need to save the buildings forever.
- Consider a demonstration garden/landscape around one of the homes on site so the Historic Commission to show interested homeowners the value of "domesticated" historic plantings.

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- Consider using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) when developing the MP – it's not only for crime prevention! Ex: ways to use lighting and landscaping for helping direct park users, instead of more signage.