

Downtown Camas Association – Public Participation in the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #4

Thursday, May 12, 2022 | 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- Leslie Lewallen, City of Camas (absent)
- Marty Snell
- April Berlin
- Randal Friedman
- Isaac Dizon
- David Ripp, Port of Camas Washougal
- Tim Hein, City of Camas
- Steve Young
- Kalani Cox

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Alan Hughes
- Will Henderson
- Emily Hess (absent)
- Abbi Russell
- ZZ Lundburg

Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Meeting Purpose and Topics:

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide updates on the Washington State Department of Ecology process
- Debrief outreach during the May 7 Plant and Garden Fair
- Discuss summer events and CAG participation
- Discuss next steps
- **Opening:** 4 – 4:10 p.m.
 - Welcome and introductions
 - Agenda review
 - Approve minutes of the March. 10, 2022, meeting
- **Washington State Department of Ecology process:** 4:10– 4:20 p.m.
 - Updates
 - Question and answer
- **Debrief May 7 Plant Fair Event:** 4:20 – 4:50 p.m.

- Event Summary
- Discussion
- **CAG participation in summer events:** 4:50 – 5:15 p.m.
 - Upcoming/proposed events
- **Next Steps:** 5:15 p.m.
- **Adjourn:** 5:30 p.m.

[The full meeting agenda can be found online.](#)

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting began at 4:02 p.m.

The CAG members reviewed the minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting.

David Ripp shared that he did not receive the minutes and asked Will Henderson to forward to him.

The CAG members approved the minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting.

MFA staff walked through the proposed agenda for the meeting. The CAG reviewed and approved the proposed agenda for the meeting.

Washington State Department of Ecology process: Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, shared that she corresponded with Shingo Yamazaki with the Department of Ecology (DOE). Shingo informed Caroline that he will be moving to a different department within DOE as soon as a new hire is selected in June or July. Caroline shared that the DOE is moving forward with review of the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan. The review is expected to be complete in the next month, pending feedback from the Yakama Nation. Comments will be compiled in the final report to Georgia Pacific.

Alan Hughes, MFA, added that DOE is short-staffed at the moment, which may prolong the review timeline.

Debrief May 7 Plant Fair Event: Abbi Russell, MFA, led the discussion around the event debrief.

Abbi shared that around 350 people interacted with the project booth and dozens of verbal comments were received. There were a total of five comment cards collected and six people signed up for the project newsletter.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, noted that many people took rack cards and said they would visit the project website.

Abbi Russell, MFA the shared a summary of questions and comments received during the event, including:

- What is GP doing with the site?
- Who is this group and what are you doing?
- What will happen with the property if/when the mill closes?

- How long will this take?
- What will be done with the Camas Business Center property?
- Concerns about contamination blowing/leaking from the site
- Whatever goes into the site in the future should provide public benefit.
- Preserve papermaking history in Camas.
- Keep the charm of the area
- Future redevelopment should create a destination waterfront.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, added that it was helpful to have Steve Young at the booth to provide context and historical knowledge.

Marty Snell, CAG Member, shared that he heard the question “What does the city want to see?”, noting that there was recognition that the city has a stake in the site’s redevelopment

April Berlin, CAG Member, asked if there was information about website traffic before and after the plant fair. Carrie Schulstad, DCA shared that she would follow up on this ask and that the metric would be added to the event summary document that MFA is compiling.

Randal Friedman, CAG Member, expressed thanks to all and shared that it is great we are having this communication with the community.

April Berlin, CAG Member, asked if it would be possible to share the questions and comments from the event with GP. Caroline Mercury, DCA, said that it would be great to share the summary, if permissible. Mark Nickerson, CAG member, suggested that GP might be hesitant to share too much information on current operations.

Abbi Russell, MFA, shared that the team received compliments on the rack cards, particularly the quality of the Russian translation.

Kalani Cox, CAG Member, noted in the chat that she thinks it would be great to see a Mill Brewery as the industrial style of the mill would lend itself well to that.

David Ripp, CAG Member, shared that the mill has some great historical photos on display within the plant. Caroline Mercury, DCA, stated that the DCA has these photos and videos and could incorporate them into our next display.

Randal Friedman, CAG Member shared that it is important to communicate that the community wants the mill to know we are here and ready to work with them.

Abbi Russell, MFA, shared that an event summary document would be created and shared on the website. She also shared that the team would create an FAQ document to address common questions that were asked during the event. The FAQ document can be used for future engagement efforts.

Will Henderson, MFA, spoke to the dot survey that was conducted during the event. The survey asked members of the public to share what priorities they would like to see the CAG focus on. The group discussed the results, which will also be documented in the event summary.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, concluded the conversation by stating that almost, if not all of the interactions at the event were positive, informative and educational.

May 7 Plant Fair Event Mural Exercise: Will Henderson, MFA, shared a mural board with follow up questions directed to CAG members. Using a Mural Dashboard, the CAG members provided input to be incorporated for future events.

Were the displays/activities helpful? What could be improved and what worked well?

- The timeline was less referred to than the map, but was useful to have
- Kids activity was popular
- Dot surveys are always helpful - visually draws people in
- Candy bowl was helpful
- Smaller handout of the aerial image (maybe two images, depending on the event) would be nice
 - A visual aerial image - overlooking the property, but to see the scope and complexity of it
- Cards with QR codes are helpful - would be nice for a QR code to direct to a comment form
 - Provide a QR code that allows immediate, anonymous feedback
- Have actual GP consumer products to show community members what is produced at the mill
- List of significant chemicals that may need to be cleaned up would be helpful
- For the aerial image, incorporate imagery to show what is currently in operation versus what has historically been in operation
 - Some space on the mainland still has buildings may not be addressed in the cleanup process
- Provide images taken from the river and interface - people do not understand the enormity of the site
- Create a drone video - would need the cooperation of the property owner
 - People were surprised by how much of the mill site is on the waterfront
- City of Camas used a short, five-question survey that they promoted on social media. The CAG could do this for an event via a link to a Google form or another platform.

Were the resources/talking points provided adequate?

- Having a variety of people in the booth was helpful (CAG, DCA, MFA)
- I did not know what a Superfund site was – would like to have this information for future events
- Was not prepared for the amount of misinformation that was presented
 - FAQs should help address this

CAG participation in summer events: Will Henderson, MFA led a conversation about CAG representation and involvement at upcoming summer events. Will shared that due to limited time, the DCA/MFA team has proposed four summer events in which the CAG would have representation and be present to engage with the community about the Camas Mill Cleanup project. The events shared were:

- **Tabling at Safeway stores in Camas and Washougal**
 - Timing TBD

- **Wheels and Wings**
 - August 27 from 11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Camas Farmers Market**
 - June 1 - September 28 (every Wednesday) from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Camas Car Show**
 - June 25 from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Will Henderson, MFA, asked the CAG if there were events not shared on the list that should be prioritized. David Ripp, CAG member, shared that the Port hosts a Fourth of July event that often attracts many community members, though since it's a holiday, it might be difficult for CAG/DCA/MFA staff to attend.

Randal Friedman, CAG Member, asked about including Camas Days. He shared that farmers' markets may also bring repeat customers if the CAG was to attend multiple events. Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, responded by saying that Camas Days can often be rather hectic and that space and availability at Camas Days may be limited – the Chamber of Commerce would need to be notified well in advance.

First Fridays was also mentioned as a possible event. Caroline Mercury explained that First Fridays are attended by many of the same people as the Plant Fair and Farmers Market. She also cautioned that the CAG should try to avoid getting spread too thin: Aim for events that have an impact and attract different parts of the community.

The CAG will revisit this topic. MFA/DCA will create a list of proposed events and distribute to the CAG.

Open Discussion: Marquita Call, CAG Member, asked if GP has been informed of the CAG's engagement efforts and if they had any feedback? Marquita shared that she was not aware of what the next steps with the GP Mill were and wanted to make sure she was sharing the right information. Caroline Mercury will follow up with Marquita soon to answer her questions and discuss the project in further detail.

Caroline Mercury shared that the DCA and MFA will research potential events in Washougal to better reach that community.

Next Steps: Will Henderson, MFA, wrapped up the meeting and went over next steps:

- *The CAG will receive a list of proposed events for summer 2022. Once approved, MFA will coordinate sign-ups via email.*
- *The next CAG meeting will be on July 14 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Sign up for email updates and learn more at: www.downtowncamas.com/camaswamillinfo

Email questions and comments to Caroline Mercury, DCA Past President:
camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com

Read and review the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?%20csid=15156>