FOSS FLOATS! MEETING NOTES June 21, 2012 - Interpretive Center

Attendees: Nina Garfield, Deborah Rudd, Nicole Jackson, Valerie Cooley, Lois Christensen, Kileen Mitchell, Mike Graybill, Tom Gaskill and; Dave Lunde.

* Mike expressed a need for a common web site or way for us to share information easier, wondering if Lonne could assist us with that, Tom suggested a Wiki page.
* Mike shared his enthusiasm for the project. He brought an updated document showing our original master plan drawing of a ramp and platform, and a way to get the ball rolling. The plan is ready to be permitted. If we split the project into two parts:

1. Use existing plan for gangway floatation.
2. Build a boat house later.
3. Building would be low tech. Gangway would be engineered.

* Deborah commented that from a fundraising standpoint, it might be better to do the Float House first, due to the Huck Finn appeal.
* Nicole added that having the trail shore access improvement would help with fundraising.
* Tom spoke about his vision for a floating boat house.

1. Educational opportunities would be increased.
2. To maximize visitation, parking spaces, it would be good to have the ability to be moved into Charleston, or other locations.
3. Interpretive panels could be installed on the wall space.
4. The Charisma factor would help it to become more self sufficient.
5. Live animals are always requested in his programs.
6. Good light is always needed for science projects - solar power, shore power.

* Nicole commented that the project had a lot of goals leading to the complexity of designing a space that would meet different needs.

1. If it is mobile, would the weight be hard to tow? What would it cost to move? Is it practical?
2. Do we want to be historically accurate or progressive? Set an example by not having to mitigate for damage done to the bottom.
3. What are our priorities? Do we need boat storage, or a floating class room / visitor space?

* Lois agreed to check with Knutson Towing Co. about logistics/costs for moving floating boathouse.
* Tom and Mike discussed the cultural and historical aspects of project, our community’s connection to the water, fishing, logging, and a way to carry it forward.
* Buying a boat, such as a Pontoon type, was discussed and not favored.
* Moorage was discussed: There is waiting list for moorage in Charleston; Port of Coos Bay is open.

An ongoing commitment for moorage and maintenance will be required.

Being on a public transportation route would be good.

Nina offered that as NOAA is good with our project as far as Research and Education, unfortunately they don’t have any funds available at this time to help us.

* Mike would like to ask the board to vote on proposal to go ahead with the permitting of the existing plan for ramp and platform. Also to use funds set aside for the permitting process.
* Key points to consider now are: Logistics for Moorage, Budget Development. (Ask Laura to attend next meeting.
* Next meeting will be July 5, 2:00 OIMB