

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 05-171

Authorizing Transfer of Title to the Morrison Property

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In March 2002, by Resolution 02-032, the Board resolved to dispose of certain county-owned property deemed surplus, including the Morrison Building, located at 2115 SE Morrison Street ("Morrison Property").
- b. Commissioner Rojo de Steffey facilitated a public hearing on January 21, 2004 regarding the disposition of the Morrison Property and to invite public comment. Many concerns were raised because of the Morrison Property's close proximity to the Lone Fir Cemetery.
- c. On March 4, 2004, by Resolution 04-022, the Board created the Morrison Property Task Force. The Task Force included local government representatives and community leaders. It was chaired by Commissioner Rojo de Steffey and tasked with assessing all disposition options and devising a plan for disposition of the Morrison Property that enhances the Buckman neighborhood and is in the best interest of the county.
- d. After meeting once a month for nine months the Taskforce completed its work and presented it to the Board on November 23, 2004. One of its recommendations was that the county provide a six month period for development of a community-driven plan.
- e. On December 9, 2004, by Resolution 04-182, the Board resolved to accept the recommendation of the Taskforce and take no action to dispose of the Morrison Property to allow the community committee to develop a plan. Commissioner Rojo de Steffey was directed to be the county liaison for the community during this six month period.
- f. The Morrison Property was once part of the Lone Fir Cemetery. Many individuals, including Chinese immigrant railroad workers, were buried on the site.
- g. It was believed that all of the Chinese burials were disinterred and returned to China.
- h. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association believed that although many of the men had been disinterred and returned to China, women and children were not returned and still remained on the Morrison Property.

- i. In January, 2005, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey oversaw an excavation of three sites on the Morrison Property to determine whether any human remains were still on the property.
- j. Human remains were found on the Morrison Property along with many artifacts including Chinese grave markers.
- k. This discovery resulted in certain portions of the Morrison Property being designated as an official archaeological site.
- l. In February, 2005, by Resolution 05-027, the Board resolved to find funds and demolish the Morrison Building. Funds were found and allocated to the demolition of the Morrison Building which has been completed.
- m. Metro owns the Lone Fir Cemetery adjacent to the Morrison Property.
- n. It is in the county's best interest to transfer the Morrison Property to Metro, thereby reincorporating it with the Lone Fir Cemetery.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The Facilities & Property Management Division shall negotiate an agreement to transfer the Morrison Property to Metro.
- 2. The Chair is authorized to execute all documents necessary to complete the transfer.

ADOPTED this 6th day of October, 2005.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:
AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
John S. Thomas, Deputy County Attorney