

Annual Report 2007

Concerned Citizens In Action

1. Message from your President.

Intoduction and executive summary.

It's been a full and rewarding first year for the nine board members of Concerned Citizens In Action. We formed our non-profit corporation in January 2007, drafted new by-laws, and developed a logo as a team effort. And what a team!

We started our journey at a picnic table in the Parkers Landing Historical Park. Our first mission, before becoming CCIA, was to gather over 1100 signatures from the public to "save our park". From there, the beginning of Concerned Citizens In Action was born. And have we been busy!

We held twenty four (24) regular or special meetings, two membership meetings, and one public forum. Several of us attended all Camas-Washougal Port regular or special meetings, most of the City of Washougal council meetings, and a few of the City of Camas Council meetings, and City of Washougal Planning meetings. We pulled public records and read over 500 pages of documents. We transcribed, word for word, the comments and questions from the pubic who attended our forum. We set up an informational website and posted some of the Port public record documents. We wrote letters to the editor, and were interviewed by Dean Baker of the Columbian for a story about our process. We wrote guest columns to the Post Record, and we had a booth at the Ice Cream Social held at the Two Rivers Museum. We wrote to the state auditor about our concerns, and met with the assistant state auditor, presenting her with documents and information to assist with her performance and financial audit of the Port.

We communicated with the people of our community by visiting Home Owners Association meetings, talking with people on the phone, talking with them at meetings, and answering emails. We attended the Open House for the Port and stayed the entire time, listening to people and asking questions. We attended all Waterfront Advisory Committee meetings, asking questions and voicing our opinions. We applied to be on the WAC committee when it was being formed. We talked with the stakeholders in our community, such as the landowners near the Port, the Puffin Café', Westlie Motors, the Parkerhouse Restaurant and Victor Espinoza, the boating community and the Commodore of the Vancouver Yacht Club, Hambleton Brothers, the PLPAC, and the public at large. We met individually with several City of Washougal Council members, and presented the City council of Washougal with packets containing public documents that had not been seen by the public before. We presented the public comments and questions from our forum to the Port, and also presented them with a critique of their answers to those comments and questions. We obtained our own legal counsel to learn the ramifications of the Option Agreement signed by the Port Commissioners. We wrote letters to WSDOT reinforcing their designs for SR-14 that put safety first. We submitted Press releases, some that were published regarding our concerns.

As I reviewed our minutes, I realized how hard this group worked. So many hours were spent in research, talking with people, thinking about our next steps, and

attending meetings that it seemed at times as if we were doing this more than any other thing in our lives. What made this so important to us? We all felt that there was a government process not acting in the best interest of its public. We wanted to make people aware of the facts and documents, and allow them to make decisions about what they wanted done, and how they wanted it done. We had, at one point, declared an alternative vision called "Dare to be different". I believe we continued to use this as a means to develop our goals and strategies, especially when all the messages we got from the government were "stay the course".

We have at this time appeared to have had an impact on our Port. They have changed course, and it is still to be seen what direction this change will take them and the public. Concerned Citizens In Action will continue to follow the events, and continue with their process regarding the Port and its actions. And we have other projects in mind to begin to focus on. We hope to hear from our members what they would like to see as future projects regarding government accountability and transparency.

2. Description.

Mission: our mission is "to hold government accountable to the public while serving the public interest.

Goals: Our goals are to educate the public about the importance of holding government accountable to the public, to secure resources from individuals, corporations, and other foundations for our mission, to enhance community support for holding government accountable to the public, to provide direct support to others, to cooperate with the community at large in developing and promoting government accountability, and continue to grow our membership.

Strategies for reaching our goals: Our strategies were mentioned in the introduction, but basically we are a team, and we work together to support the interests of our community. We continue to listen to the public for ideas and suggestions as to how we can benefit the community. We hope our growing membership will become a strong voice which promotes our mission.

Benefits of our organization and how we help our community.

Concerned Citizens In Action and its concept is new to this community; there has not been an advocacy group formed that holds government accountable in the Camas-Washougal area before. We are available to provide information and to be role models for how the public can empower themselves when it comes to concerns regarding government process. We assist the members of the community to be aware of issues which may need more public scrutiny, and provide education for finding out how to get more information. We motivate the public to participate in their government in a positive and collaborative way.

Accomplishments for 2007

- Formed the Concerned Citizens In Action non-profit corporation.
- Elected Officers from our nine member board of directors.
- Set up by-laws, and a set of goals for the coming year.

- Started with one of the biggest government concerns for our local area as a project.
- Pulled public records, gleaned documents of importance, presented to the public.
- Attended a majority of government meetings related to our project.
- Sponsored a public forum that was attended by nearly 200 citizens.
- Held regular meetings, kept minutes, followed meeting agendas.
- Wrote letters to the editor, Guest columns, and press releases.
- Provided interviews to the Columbian newspaper and Vancouver Business Journal, stories published about our group.
- Elicited the assistance of the state auditor, presented them with factual documents from public records.
- Supported other community members and groups with similar concerns.
- Our Vice President, who ran for a seat on the Port commission, has tendered his resignation, and will start working as a government official in January 2008
- Formed committees, such as the Committee to research the tax issues, and the Committee to research the legal issues. Produced documents for the public regarding findings.
- Talked to individual government officials and staff members.
- Developed packets with public documents to present to Washougal City Council, including history of Parkers Landing Historical Park.
- Developed a website that provides information and copies of public documents, allows for public discourse on various topics, and kept the public up to date on our projects and events.
- Made presentations to local community groups, such as HOA's and local Granges
- Created a presence in the local community that will continue to support the public in regards to government accountability in the public's interest.

Possible future projects being considered

The current project with the Camas-Washougal Port is still ongoing, although much positive progress has been seen. Another project being considered is the SR-14 upgrade and re-design which will pass through both Camas and Washougal. Projects being considered will be those where government appears to need increased accountability and transparency, as well as those that appear to need more public input and involvement.

3. Financial statement (presented by Treasurer Roger Daniels)

Expenditures breakdown

Donations Received

(see attached document for this report)

4. Directors, Officers, and Members at Large List

Signatures of Officers and Board of Directors:

Martha Martin, President

Bernice Pluchos, Board Member

**Jeff Guard, Board
Member**

Bill Ward, Vice President

Susan Stauffer, Board Member

Mariann Guetter, Secretary

Ceil Kirchner, Board Member

Roger Daniels, Treasurer

Richard Hamby, Board Member

Active Contributing Member At Large:

Gary Cole, Member at Large