

Code: 517063  
Subject: Interview with Tom Long  
Date: Tuesday, June 24  
Interviewer: Jacqui Rebillot  
Special Notes:

Minutes:

- 0 Tom Long June 24, 2008 Design Administrator for Akron  
Born in Canton in 1951, B.S. Ohio State in landscape Architecture. Worked for Columbus for 6 years. Worked for Akron for the past 28. Worked for Architect
- 1 landscaper in high school.  
Enjoy hiking and biking in Akron and other states. Mt. Rainer, Mt. Hood, Appalacian
- 2 Trail. Position involves supervision of professional staff.  
Current role in Cascade Locks is development of parks and offer design expertise.
- 3 Shows map and describes area of park system.  
Park divided into 8 developal units. Only 4 have been completed. Partnership between
- 4 City and Park system. 1500 Acre public/private partnership.  
Partnership signed in 1979. Motivated because he is an advocate for partnerships
- 5 because they can make things happen. Early 90's~ opportunity to develop towpath  
Towpath plans~ Starts in Flats in Cleveland and goes to Zoar approx. 110 miles. Akron
- 6 is in center and has 15 miles of towpath (12 miles complete)
- 7 New section will cross 59 and open in August. All 15 hopefully completed by 2010.  
Bridge plans~ no name. Text on bottom beam "ohio and erie towpath bridge".
- 8 Interpretive panels.  
Canal is culverted under route 59. Canal is exposed through Lock 3, goes under Bowery
- 9 St (lock 4), Lock 5 on Mill St. Lock 6,7,8, culverted.
  
- 10 Reappears again in Cascade Locks. Locks 10-16 drops 80 ft in elevation into Cuyahoga.  
Mustill Store and home~ house, store, and saloon for canal boat users. Grocery for
- 11 community. Private ownership for several years.
  
- 12 Virginia Voyno and others approached city to buy property around 1990. CLPA was born.  
1991 addendum to 1979 document for CLPA to be incharge of planning and design for
- 13 Cascade Locks.
- 14 1996 passage of National History Corridor allowed National Park to get involved  
2000 was the Grand opening/rededication of park. Weekly meetings between partners.
- 15 Work intensive and time consuming but worthwhile  
Cascade Locks is work in progress. Next project is march up the hill towards downtown
- 16 and restoration of Schumacker Mill site
- 17 Currently raising funds for mill site. Plans recognize historic location. Water wheel.  
Source of water wheel is controversial. Sulptural artistic interpretation of wheel at its
- 18 original location  
Richard Howe house part of canalway but not part of Cascade Locks. Howe was canal
- 19 engineer. Home is one of the oldest examples of Mason work.
- 20 Ohio and Erie board coalition pursued acquisition of property for office space.  
  
University approached city for the complete block to build apartments and asked for the
- 21 house to be moved. House will be moved beside Lock 2 on Main and Exchange.  
Will be used for offices and can be used for public. Date to be moved is scheduled for
- 22 Monday, June 30, 2008.  
Importance~represents regional cooperation, resource management, and part of
- 23 economic development. Benefits residents through economic development.
- 24 Parks attract younger generation (up to 34) to relocate.

25 Criticisms~ Initially private sector individuals were concerned property would be taken  
26 by eminent domain.  
27 Predominantly very positive by both residents and people outside the area.  
28 Changes~ development pressures. Hickory St. and Memorial Pkwy. Originally tennis  
29 courts. Developer wanted to build homes and that was supported by council.  
30 Parks provide natural and historical resources but also has public accessability.  
31 Original Master plan was viewed as a park system for city and metro parks what  
32 changed is it is now a regional space because of the canalway.  
33 Great Lakes Compact~ preserve Great Lakes and tributaries (canal and Cuyahoga).  
34 Scenic Byway has been developed  
35 Ohio and Erie Canal system is backbone for trail system, county trail system gives more  
36 access to residents in area.  
37 Scenic Byway~ public street system that parallels the canal. In Cascade Valley goes  
38 through Riverview, Merriman, Memorial Parkway, South Main.  
39 Signs along the way. There is a new logo for the byway.  
40 Greatest Sense of Accomplishment~ ALL of them. Privilege to represent City of Akron in  
41 these projects  
42 Favorite Place is the Cascade Locks.  
43 Names of others who should be interviewed.  
44 Interaction with Dave Whitted.  
45 Group would get together to discuss regional issues. "Breakfast Club"  
46 Idea from Breakfast Club~ Connections that go out to the community (NAME??)  
47 1979 Plan for park and 1925 plan of Summit County by Olmsted brothers. "It's been  
48 done before"  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68