

What makes the local government and a home owners' association work together?...

... A Swedish Bus-Stop!

The folks in the "Oleson Road Crossing Committee" desired to build a Swedish inspired bus-stop shelter for the local school children keeping them out of the rain during the winter months. The planned bus-stop is close to the headquarter of the New Sweden Cultural and Heritage Society, across the road from Ross Fogelquist's log home Fogelbo in Portland, Oregon.



The group issued an application to Washington County transportation to build the Swedish Bus-Stop shelter and waited for a response...and guess what they got back after some time, a response they didn't expect!

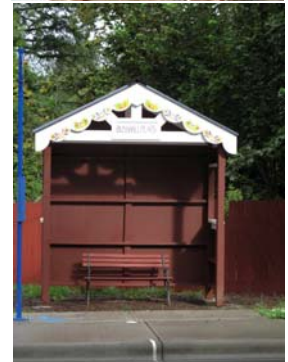
"Please let the folks on Oleson Road know that we have not forgotten about their bus stop shelter. On the contrary, we have come up with following strategy, to work with them to get the structure constructed and sited, through our Right-of-Way permit process. Please note that Washington County is willing to provide structural design assistance if you have trouble getting someone to do the calculations".

Believe it or not, but a bus-stop shelter was the thing that led to good communication between local government and the home owners, which indicates that it is possible to work together for the best of the local interest.

A financial donation by New Sweden Culture and Heritage Society and much labor by the home owners' organization started of the project in August of 2010.



The bus-stop shelter was of course built to the local government building code which is stricter than most, and we got a very solid bus-stop shelter.



A local joke says:

*"When the big earthquake is coming, run for the bus-stop shelter!"*

The bus-stop shelter even has a sign in Swedish. Bus-Stop is translated to Busshållplats. It is also decorated with Swedish Kurbits art painting by a local artist, GunMarie Rosqvist.



All involved parties were present at the dedication of the bus-stop shelter. Washington County, TRI-MET, Oregonian newspaper, New Sweden members and of course the home owners that made it all happening.

The Oleson Road Bus-Stop shelter is most likely the only Swedish bus-stop shelter in the U.S.

Written by Leif Rosqvist, the editor of New Sweden Culture and Heritage Foundation newsletter in Portland, Oregon.

