

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND FUNDING REQUEST
REFURBISHMENT OF COMMERCE AVENUE STREET CLOCK

Submitted by Mark McCrady

The residents of Cowlitz County and visitors to the City of Longview have long enjoyed the history and assets of R.A. Long's planned City. There have been several books written about how R.A. Long built the City and left the community with the incredible buildings, parks, and artifacts that have provided the fabric and community pride for Longview. The following project proposal is being developed to sustain one of the historic features the R.A. Long provided to our community, the Commerce Avenue Street Clock.

BACKGROUND

At the August 8, 1996 Longview City Council meeting, council voted to buy the pedestal clock in front of the former Big 4 Furniture building from the US Federal Bankruptcy Court after Mr. and Mrs. Pat Petrie filed bankruptcy. Following the purchase of the clock, John and Mary Chilson, longtime advocates for preserving the history of Longview, invested \$10,000 dollars of their own money and provided the oversight to restore the clock. After over 20 years of service, several of the components have reached the end of their useful life and the clock needs a complete refurbishment. On behalf of and with the support of the Longview Public Service Group, I have volunteered to provide the project management and part of the labor needed for the restoration of the clock. The purpose of this request is to provide background on the clock restoration project and to seek financial support to make this project a reality.

THREE PHASES OF THE PROJECT

1. Completely refurbish and replace the working components of the Commerce Avenue pedestal clock. Refurbishment will include new controls that will allow the chimes to be programmed for hours of operation; will provide for the clock to be self-correcting after a power outage and adjust the time for daylight savings time; and, the glass for the four dials will also be replaced with a more vandal-resistant product.
2. Completely rebuild the master clock inside the Country Folks Deli and relocate this clock to the Longview Room at the Longview Public Library. When the street clock was installed in front of the Lumberman's Bank in 1926, the master control clock was placed inside the building and has remained in this privately-owned building throughout the transfer of the property to various owners. While the master clock no longer controls the street clock, it is part of the system and needs to be restored and moved to a city owned building to preserve the history of the clock for the enjoyment of City residents.

3. Replace the existing master clock for The Country Folks Deli with a clock that reflects the period in history of the clock. While it is the opinion of both John Chilson and myself that the City of Longview owns the master clock inside the Country Folks Deli, it does not seem right to take this clock off the wall without offering the restaurant a replacement. Included in this proposal is the funding to secure a comparable replacement of the clock for the restaurant, completely refurbish this clock, and then install it in the restaurant at the same time that the master clock is removed for repairs. Included in this part of the project will be reverse painted glass with the name of the deli in the lower glass panel of the clock.

COMPLETE REBUILD OF PEDESTAL CLOCK

The components available today for this type of clock are light years ahead of what was available when John Chilson restored the clock years ago. All four slave mechanisms that control the individual dials will be replaced, the chime mechanism will be made operational, and the entire clock will be able to be reset easily. We will also be able to program when the chimes operate. My suggestion is that they work between 10 am and 6 pm, business hours for most downtown businesses. However, any combination should be possible. John Chilson also suggested a more vandal-resistant glass be installed in the dial covers to protect from BB gun damage to the original stained-glass dials. This will be done as well.

To make this project a reality, I am proposing to hire George Pease of Woodbay Company, LLC to perform the work. George is a recognized expert in the field of McClintock street clocks and has performed similar restoration projects.

HELP NEEDED TO MAKE THIS PROJECT A REALITY

The Longview Public Service Group has agreed to be the fiscal agent and applicant for donations and grants for this project. Funds received will be entrusted to this group and they will collect revenues and pay the bills for the project with money that is raised for the project.

In my preliminary outreach for the project, I am making application to Longview Noon Rotary for a commitment of a \$5000 matching grant at the front end of the project that I believe will demonstrate community support. They have expressed interest and asked that an application be submitted as soon as possible as they do have the funds available at this time. The balance of the funding would include a commitment of \$2000 of in-kind volunteer labor by myself. I believe this commitment of \$7,000 of in-kind and cash donations will leverage the remaining \$7,000. Please note that I will not ask Rotary for any of the money held in reserve for this project until the other \$7000 has been raised.



RESTORATION OF STREET CLOCK MASTER CLOCK



Located inside the Country Folks Deli is the original master clock for the street clock. When the clock system was installed in the Lumberman's Bank in 1926, this clock, via a transformer that converted 110-volt power to 12-volt DC and electro-mechanical controls inside the clock, sent electrical impulses to the four slave clocks and the chime solenoids in the pedestal clock outside the bank. This clock was the brains of the clock system. John Chilson and I talked extensively about this and we both feel that this

clock is the property of the City of Longview and has substantial historical significance. Our suggestion would be for the City to take possession of this clock and have it restored to running condition and placed at the Library or other city owned building. Beside the clock would be a bronze plaque that explains the history of this item. There are parts missing from the clock but George Pease, our clock restoration expert, has access to the parts needed to complete this restoration.



Example of a restored master clock

REPLACEMENT CLOCK FOR COUNTRY FOLKS DELI

. Because it does not seem fair to remove the clock from the Country Folks Deli after they have stored our clock for the last 22 years without replacing it with something, included in this proposal is enough money to obtain a period correct wall clock and completely restore this clock as well. Once the replacement clock has been restored, we will have the words COUNTRY FOLKS DELI reverse painted on the lower glass. This should result in a win-win situation for both the City and the restaurant. Picture of a possible replacement clock and a sample of the new glass is shown in the pictures below. The replacement glass is a sample of work that I have had done for other clock owners.



Example of replacement clock style. The lower glass panel will be removed and replaced with a reverse, gold leaf style stenciled glass. An example of the glass is shown below.

COUNTRY FOLKS DELI

PROJECT BUDGET

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR COMMERCE CLOCK REFURBISHMENT	
STREET CLOCK REFURBISHMENT	
Labor and travel expenses for Woodbay Company LLC	\$6200.00
Materials for clock refurbishment	\$3000.00
Sales Tax for street clock at 8.1%	\$ 745.20
TOTAL for street clock	\$9945.20
MASTER CLOCK REFURBISHMENT	
Labor for master clock refurbishment	\$1100.00
Materials for master clock refurbishment	\$ 290.00
Sales tax for master clock @ 8.1%	\$ 112.59
TOTAL for master clock	\$1502.59
DELI REPLACEMENT CLOCK	
Cost of replacement clock	\$200.00
Labor and material to restore clock	\$175.00
Replacement glass	\$100.00
Sales tax for replacement clock @ 8.1%	\$ 38.48
TOTAL for replacement clock	\$513.48
PROJECT TOTAL	\$11,961.27

