



Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Scappoose City Hall, 33568 E Columbia Ave., Scappoose, OR 97056

June 18, 2020 12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm

***Some members attending via conference call**

Attendees:

Jeannet Santiago, Len Waggoner, Brian Rosenthal, Marty Baldwin, Alex Tardif, Jeff Weiss, Michael Sykes, Heidi Ralls, George Hafeman, Christine Collins, Brady Preheim, Chrissy Marquardt, Susie Wilson, Michael Leipzig, Paul Vogel, Alex Rains, Huell White, JJ Duehren (guest)

Absent:

Phil Griffin, Scott Burge, Larry Ericksen, Laurie Oliver

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 12:08 by Chair Jeannet Santiago

1.1 Introductions

Michael Leipzig, the newest member of the Committee, introduced himself. Jeannet took roll call of attendees, as several members were in attendance virtually (via conference call).

1.2 Meeting minutes

Susie motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by George. The February 20th meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

1.3 Citizen Communication

JJ Duehren attended as a guest during the public comment section. JJ mentioned that she had been working with the Library to figure out how to host Movies in the Park this year. JJ mentioned that since Columbia County is in Phase 2 of the State's re-opening plan, venues are allowed to have up to 100 people as long as social distancing is enforced. The event, if approved and funded, is planned to begin on Friday, July 17th. Pre-registering would be required to limit the number of attendees.

The Library is seeking the support of the City to fund the event series. Michael Sykes asked what the total amount is that the Library is requesting: \$2,800, most of which is due to the restrictions on licensing for movie events hosted by public agencies. JJ and Jeff added that any profit made from the event would be given to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

Michael Sykes asked if the Committee would be willing to fund the Library's program for \$2,800 out of EDC's budget? George proposed a motion, seconded by Christine. All members were in favor, except for Brady. Motion passed. JJ thanked the Committee.



2. New Business

2.1 Discussion on Marketing – What makes our area marketable?

Marketing is a large part of what the Committee has taken on for this year. Paul Vogel, interim director of Columbia County Economic Team (CCET), introduced himself. Jeannet asked what Paul had discovered about the area since taking over the position following Chuck Daughtry's retirement in April. Paul discussed livability, proximity to a major metropolitan area, and the high quality of life. Paul stated that when he markets to industrial clients, he takes the same approach he would with attracting individuals – the same factors that affect livability are attractors for both employers *and* employees. Furthermore, Paul added that Scappoose has more developable industrial land than anywhere else in the Portland metro area. According to Paul, there are currently five live proposals out to attract companies to Scappoose.

Several Committee members chimed in and added to what makes Scappoose an attractive place to do business. Brady mentioned that Phase 2 puts Scappoose at a competitive advantage and the comparatively lower development fees in this community. George discussed how the new industrial area, along with its parks-related additions and new road, make the community attractive for industries. Brian mentioned the lower taxes in Scappoose, compared to neighboring Multnomah County.

Susie asked about information that could be handed out in the form of flyers or brochures, and whether it would be possible to create such materials. Michael Sykes and Alex handed out the *City Guide*, an informational guide to public services and parks in Scappoose, that was designed by Dan Rocha Design. Susie remarked that she is very interested in getting a commercial/industrial version of the guide. Michael Sykes emphasized the importance of marketing with CCET and is something that the City is excited to work on with CCET.

Paul mentioned that he was not initially going to focus on the actual physical marketing materials but realized that it needed to be a part of CCET's priorities when he came aboard. Paul stated that the County's Board has signed off on creating a new all-inclusive database of businesses throughout Columbia County. Paul ended on the fact that marketing is not about showing the statistics, but rather telling the story as to *why* Columbia County is the place to do business.

Jeannet asked the group if there is anyone from EDC that sits on CCET's board. Both the Mayor and City Manager serve on the CCET board, but several members expressed a desire to have a citizen member from EDC to serve as well. Paul mentioned that there is one open seat, however, there is a nominee for the position that will be voted on at CCET's next meeting. Michael Sykes mentioned that there seems to be a bit of inequity when it comes to the CCET board, given that Scappoose provides half of CCET's funding, yet holds only one full member seat. Paul mentioned that this is something that should certainly be proposed to their board. Alex Rains mentioned that she would draft a letter on the EDC's behalf. Susie made a motion, seconded by George, which passed unanimously.



2.2 Upcoming Term Expirations – August 2020

Brady, Len, and George all have terms expiring in August. Len and George have informed the Mayor that they are interested in continuing to serve. Brady is unsure and has deferred to the Mayor.

2.3 Centennial Celebration 2021

Michael Sykes mentioned that the Council is very excited about the event, however, COVID-19 could have lasting implications that could prevent such an event from taking place next year. Jeannet remarked that it seems like no one really knows what the situation will be like as to when large events will be possible again. Sykes stated that the City and the Committee should reevaluate in October.

2.4 Updates – County, City, Port, CRPUD

Michael Sykes delivered the City's updated:

- PCC is under construction
- East Airport has been issued a grading permit to continue the road
- Staff applied for a \$1 million deep water basalt well grant
- Wastewater Treatment Plan needs \$6 million DEQ loan for upgrades
- New property for the pool's siting – preliminary design is underway
- Several new housing developments are continuing forward, despite the pandemic

Heidi mentioned that CRPUD's board is exploring ways to provide relief to customers due to the economic downturn that has been caused by the pandemic. No updates from the County or Port.

3. Announcements and Next Meetings

- July 16, 2020
- August 20, 2020
- September 17, 2020

Chair and Vice Chair elections will be held at the next meeting. Meetings will likely continue to follow a similar format (split virtual and in-person) for the foreseeable future.

Brady brought up the Community Club's "safety station" proposal for the Farmers Market. Sykes mentioned that Community Enhancement Program (CEP) applications would be selected at the next City Council meeting. Sykes also provided an overview of what the CEP is and how it works.

4. Meeting Adjourned at 1:03 pm.