



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
REGULAR MEETING AT 12:00 PM**

33568 E COLUMBIA AVE; SCAPPOOSE, OR 97056 & MICROSOFT TEAMS (HYBRID)

Disclaimer: These notes are intended to summarize the conversations that took place in this meeting rather than provide a full transcript. Anyone wishing to view the full conversation can find a recording of this meeting on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/DSp28PpySc?si=GKLKrNYelbfvA3UH>

Attendees: Chair Christine Turner, George Hafeman, Sean Findon, Casey Garrett, Paul Vogel (remote), Patty Hawkins, Nancy Ward, Heidi Ralls, Jeff Weiss, N.J. Johnson, Ralph [last name unknown]

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Karl Fenstermaker, Brian Rosenthal, Paul Fidrych, David Sideras

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Chair Christine Turner.

NJ: We do not have a quorum of voting committee members present. We are still allowed to hear informational updates but the Committee cannot deliberate or vote on anything.

1.1 Meeting Agenda

With no quorum, the meeting agenda could not be approved and so it was followed as presented.

1.2 Meeting Minutes

With no quorum, the meeting minutes could not be approved and so they will be considered for approval at the next meeting with a quorum.

1.3 Public comment

No public comment.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Updates

- Columbia Economic Team - Paul
 - Received \$800,000 to do design and planning for small businesses incubator at OMIC.
 - Doing preliminary work to open up the edge of the Parker property.
 - Added a part-time advisor to the Small Business Development Center. Close to hitting quota for small business clients.



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- There is pending EPA guidance that will have major impacts on wetlands and development.
 - Received final version of feasibility study for a hotel in Scappoose. The taskforce will meet again in the next few weeks.
 - Keep it Local app is now in its soft launch.
- Scappoose City Council
 - *No update was provided.*
- Columbia County - Casey
 - Hospital feasibility study found that a hospital in Columbia County is not feasible.
 - John Gumm building is making major progress and we hope to do a ribbon cutting in summer 2024.
 - An elevator will be installed in the old courthouse to make it ADA accessible.
 - Broke ground on the Holce Trailhead in Vernonia, the latest Crown Z Trail to be updated.
 - Met with Scappoose stakeholders on the interpretative signage project.
 - Finished 12 new campsites at Camp Wilkerson.
 - Looking to build new bridge at the Wilark Trailhead.
 - Removed most of County wetland overlay zone via ordinance.
- OMIC R&D
 - *No update provided.*
- PCC OMIC - Patty
 - Fall term will have two full cohorts for pre-trades for advanced manufacturing. CAD classes are full. Welding program is full. Machining has 30 students.
 - Hosting a car show on Friday, September 22nd from 6:00-8:00 pm.
 - Going to start hosting information sessions in the evenings so that parents of middle and high school students can participate and learn about our programs as well.
 - Supporting Women in Manufacturing event on December 1st.
- Port of Columbia County - Nancy
 - Shaver Transportation Co. does a luncheon for women in industry every summer.
 - Finished plans for expanding administrative office. I hope that this project can be completed by middle of 2024.
 - Continuing with Agricultural Committee. We meet next on September 25th.
 - Amended through the fence agreement to last 30 years instead of 15 years. We haven't had any applications for this yet but we do expect there to be some interest.
- Columbia River PUD - Heidi



- Board awarded \$7,500 grant to CCHUB, who is helping county youth start their own businesses.
 - Working on industrial land brochure with City, Port, and CET.
 - Customer Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:30 pm at the Fairgrounds.
- Scappoose Public Library - Jeff
 - 840 kids participated in summer reading, which is a 1/3 increase from any previous year.
 - Circulation is up 25%.
 - Movies in the Park consistently drew at least 250 people.
 - Just concluded a summer internship with a local high school student. She worked 10 hours a week and helped organize the summer reading program.
 - We created a series of collector cards that people will get when they visit the library. Then they can trade them and play games with them. This encourages kids to come every week because if they miss a week, they miss the card that was given out that week.
- City of Scappoose - NJ
 - URA/EDC work session took place on September 18th to review grant application questionnaire. We will be looking for approval of the criteria, guidelines, and form on October 16th.
 - Community branding RFP will go out on October 6th.
 - Progress is being made on downtown streetlights.
 - The Re/Max office is being relocated to the Casey Street House. Their initial application was deemed incomplete and we are waiting for their next submission.
 - Columbia River Highway restaurant complex could submit for land use soon.
 - Received Site Development Review application for private storage building across J.C. Mechanical Repair.

2.2 Check in on Downtown Overlay Code Changes

Chair Christine Turner: As Paul mentioned, we did a feasibility study for the hotel.

2.3 Discuss September 18, 2023 Joint Urban Renewal Agency Meeting

Chair Christine Turner: Five of us from EDC met with the URA on Monday and finalized the grant application process. I think it's now very thorough and complete.

2.4 Introduction to Committee Goal Setting

Christine: We have two meetings to complete goal setting so please come prepared.



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NJ: Please also keep in mind the distinction between EDC goals and goals that you recommend City Council adopt as Council Goals.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEXT MEETINGS

- Next meetings
 - October 19, 2023 at 12:00 pm
 - November 16, 2023 at 12:00 pm
 - December 21, 2023 at 12:00 pm

4. Meeting ended at 12:46 pm.