

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

January 7, 2008

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Joe Corsiglia, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel and Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order and led the flag salute.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008 Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

*Stephanie Kleppel, 34067 Sykes Road, St. Helens:* Last weeks Spotlight had an article about the Fair and there was a quote from Commissioner Bernhard that stated "This same group has been after the Fair, and I will say it that way because it's true and they have been for whatever reason for a long time". Stephanie wanted to know what Commissioner Bernhard is basing that information on. Commissioner Bernhard stated that is just her observation. Stephanie did not see that indicated in the paper. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she didn't write the article. Stephanie stated that when she came before the Board regarding the Fair, she brought documentation with her, she did not come in with just opinions.

The taxpayers who read this are assuming that the comments in the paper are fact. Stephanie asked that Commissioner Bernhard either write a retraction or state that this is her personal opinion and not based on any fact. Stephanie is not against the Fair however, she had concerns that the Fair could not donate \$850 to a non-profit. Stephanie does not appreciate Commissioner Bernhard putting her personal opinions in the paper that names her and Tammy. Commissioner Bernhard stated that she did not have anything to do with Stephanie or Tammy being named. She based her opinion on what she has witnessed in the past, with Stephanie, Tammy and others coming in to complain about the Fair. She believes this all started a long time ago when the concerts were proposed. That seemed to be when all the dislike for the Fair started. Stephanie feels that the concerts were yesterday and she only deals with today and the future and she would expect the same from Commissioner Bernhard. Just because she disagrees with Commissioner Bernhard on some issues, doesn't mean she has anything against her personally. As a taxpaying citizen, she has the right to disagree without looking like a crackpot in the paper. She has donated plants to the Fair and headed up a fundraiser, so she has nothing against the Fair. At this point, she is asking if Commissioner Bernhard is willing to print a retraction or clarification in the paper. Commissioner Bernhard stated that, although she may sit as a Commissioner, she is entitled to her own opinion.

**Tammy Maygra, 34319 Cannan Road, Deer Island:** She is also here to make comments on the article in the Spotlight. She would like to know who the "small group" of people Commissioner Bernhard referred to in the article. Tammy has never stated that she dislikes the Fair. The Fair is an important thing to the community and the kids. Her point on the Fair is that it needs to be financially responsible. When she addressed this a couple of weeks ago, she brought in the ORS that explains this Board's control over the Fair Board. She attended the Fair Board meeting in December and commented on the non-profit organizations that try to use

BOC Meeting

1/7/08

Page 3

the pavilion for the food bank or Christmas baskets and the fee they were charged. These are non-profit organizations and the Fair is a tax funded entity. Some of the people that needed the food baskets are the same ones that pay, through their taxes, for the running of the Fair. We all need to work together. As for the concert issue, she was never involved in that. The comment in the paper made it sound like they are hate mongers. She has nothing against the Fair Board or the Fair Administrator, but when she comes before the Board, she does her homework and gets her facts on the issues. Again, her concern is with how the Fair has been running. When an individual comes to the Board with a concern or issue, they shouldn't get slammed in the paper. Tammy feels that this "group", whoever they are, deserves an apology. Commissioner Bernhard stated again, that she said there were a small group of people who appear to be against the Fair and that is the way she sees things. Many of the people here today come to the Board meetings regularly and have brought up some good issues and ideas and the Board has used those. She just doesn't understand the issue.

There has been personal attacks on the Fair, the Fair Board and the Fair Administrator. It is not the Commissioner's call to determine what the Fair Board does. She reviewed the ORS that Tammy referred to and it doesn't give the Commissioner's the ability to direct the Fair. Tammy disagrees with that. Commissioner Hyde made a point that newspapers and television can pick up on one specific issue and the resulting article can be slanted. Tammy can understand that, but she has never come to a meeting and said nasty things about the Fair Board, only that she has concerns about where the money is going. Her concern today is the money they were charging a non-profit organization to use a taxpayer funded entity could have gone to help people effected by the recent disaster. If the Commissioners were to take a poll on how the citizens of this county felt, it is not just a small sect of the population that is very disappointed on

how the Fairgrounds are being handled. People are afraid to come before the Board and speak about this issue because they will end up in the paper and being called names. Whether Commissioner Bernhard made those comments or not, perhaps a retraction should be in order. Commissioner Bernhard noted that the Fair did give this group a discount. They were there for 4 days, which would have totaled \$1,600 but were only charged \$800. Tammy feels they should have been allowed to use the building at cost. Commissioner Bernhard stated that 80% of the groups that use the pavilion are non-profit. Tammy felt that is fine, as long as they pay for the costs. Commissioner Bernhard stated this is something that may be discussed when the Board meets with the Fair Board. One final comment, Tammy stated that there are a few people in this room that have applied for years to get on committees and never been appointed.

*Georgia Keiper, 34403 Sykes Road, St. Helens:* She is representing Friends of Good Planning. They have written to the paper and it has gone out to a number of individuals addressing the article in the paper. She read one item that was addressed which Commissioner Bernhard is also reported to suggest that "the same group has been after the Fair, for whatever reason, for a long time and if these people have some ideas, why don't they work with the Fair to help resolve them". Georgia stated that several people with good ideas, including some members of Friends of Good Planning, have not only tried to talk to the Fair Board, but also the Board of Commissioners about issues that, to this day, remain unresolved. Even asking to volunteer and serve on the Fair Board, but being denied. These people have been met with contempt at meetings, disrespect when they have left the meetings, and a total lack of regard by the Commissioners. The Friends of Good Planning have nothing personal against any of the Fair Board members. The Friends of Good Planning first got involved

investigating the Fair in 1998. While it is true that there may be some "political hostility", it is largely due to the Fair Boards spending habits. Georgia wanted to say that there is much more than a small sect of people that are investigating the Fair. The Friends of Good Planning is an umbrella group that have many different issues of concern and the Fair is only one of them.

*Kathleen Worman, Warren:* As the Board may recall, she and her daughter came to a meeting some time ago to talk about her daughter wanting to work at the Fair but they were ignored. Because she did not get to tell the Board why at the last meeting, she will do so now. The previous summer when she and her daughter worked at the Fair, a bunch of boys came into the office and were eating pizza, making a lot of noise and pushing and shoving each other. Kathleen's daughter took a piece of pizza and was sitting down quietly by herself when Ronda Courtney came into the room and was angry because the boys were making a ruckus and she hit my daughter and said "you too missy". Her daughter was not doing anything wrong and was not bothering anyone. Kathleen was horrified at what she saw and when Ronda came back into the office, she laid into her and told her not to ever talk to her daughter like that again - that's why they were not invited back to work the Fair. Kathleen can take a lot of stuff off people and will let it slide, but don't mess with her daughter. She doesn't even hit her daughter so what gives Ronda the idea that she can. The same summer, Kathleen was volunteering time with the vet and after coming back from lunch one day, Ronda laid into her for not being there. Ronda was very rude to her in front of the vet and feels Ronda is a horrible person for how she acts. Why is she not held accountable for her actions.

**SELECT CHAIR/VICE CHAIR/BUDGET OFFICER FOR 2008:**

BOC Minutes

1/7/08

Page 6

Commissioner Corsiglia moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to appoint Commissioner Anthony Hyde as Chair of the Board for 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to appoint Commissioner Joe Corsiglia as Vice-Chair of the Board for 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to appoint Commissioner Anthony Hyde as Budget Officer for 2008. Given the situation in Washington, DC in relation to the Rural Schools Funding, and the work he has put into that, he will accept the nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

**SET BOARD MEETING DATES/TIMES FOR 2008:**

Commissioner Hyde moved and Commissioner Corsiglia moved to continue the weekly Board meetings, work sessions and staff meeting the same as 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board meeting of Wednesday, January 9, 2008 will be canceled.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Hyde read the consent agenda in full. With that, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- (A) Ratify the Select to Pay for 12/26/07 & 1/2/08.
- (B) Ratify Order No. 2-2008, "In the Matter of Declaring an Emergency and Awarding a Public Contract for Road Construction and Repair Work".
- (C) Order No. 3-2008, "In the Matter of the Petition by Nathan & John McGilvra to Name a Private Road in St. Helens, Oregon as "Kissel Camp Road".
- (D) Authorization to fill one vacant Property Appraiser position in the Assessor's Office.

**AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS:**

- (E) Ratify Public Improvement Contract with TFT Construction for Road Construction and Repair Services.
- (G) Approve the Personal Services Contract with KMD Architects & Planners, PC, as amended to change the completion date to March 1, 2008.
- (H) Cooperative Assistance Agreement with Washington County for Damage Assessment Services and authorize the Vice to sign.

The motion carried unanimously.

**2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:**

Jan Kenna, CCCC Director, came before the Board along with Earl Fisher, Chair of the CCCC, to present the 2008-2014 Community Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families. The Plan is required to be approved and signed by the Board of Commissioners. Jan presented a brief summary of the plan. It is a six year plan which includes all aspects of healthy individual, family and community development such as economic development, transportation, school success and public safety. Much of the planning information is on a database. It includes participants and their level of participation. Several elected officials and department heads, including the BOCC, contributed to the process. Betty Huser provided information about homelessness; Janet Wright about economic development and transportation; Walt Pesterfield and Stan Mendenhall about crime and reducing recidivism; the Sheriff's Office, about public safety. Mental Health, Public Health, OSU Extension, Community Action Team and the Department of Human Services were also very much involved. Overall, there are 111 individuals listed on the database. This does not include 50 plus people completing an on line survey and other survey groups including youth and representatives of our Hispanic population. The database also includes how other plans are connected to the CCP, i.e., the Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan, Public Health, Mental Health and Early Childhood plans. It includes how Advisory bodies contributed to the plan. For instance those which you appoint: Commission on Children and Families, Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, Mental Health Advisory and Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee. Also, bodies which each county is required to have: Healthy Start Advisory Committee, Early Childhood Team, Early Intervention Coordinating Council, Child Care Advisory Committee and Lifespan Respite Committee. The Domestic Violence Council was also included. The database includes barriers which are getting in the way of service delivery. These are related to each of the

*15 Community Issues and it includes 10 Gaps (limited to 10) in services and supports which if available would strengthen healthy development.*

*The database lists our 15 Community Issues and 1 Focus Issue which Earl will talk about. It lists the 2 strategies we as a county are going to use to reach the goal set in the Focus Issue including the Percent of Change in the Target Population and the time line. We will be tracking and inputting data about the results for 6 years. This Plan is reviewed every two years and guides legislative funding.*

*78% of the 5th grade students are likely to meet or exceed state reading standards by 2014. If continuous school improvement efforts are made in the county, it is likely that more than 78% will meet or exceed state standards. Fifth grade literacy scores for the county from 2003-2007 show a slight upward trend from 71.2% to 74%. However, upward progress was not consistent from year to year. Our success story is about the Teen and Family Transition Program. The story was included in the CCP Guidelines which were distributed to each county.*

*At this time, Jan is requesting the Board approve this Comp Plan. After review of the plan, Commissioner Bernhard moved and Commissioner Corsiglia seconded to approve the 2008-2014 Community Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families. The motion carried unanimously.*

**COMMISSIONER HYDE COMMENTS:**

*Commissioner Hyde - the County has been focusing on the public infrastructure with FEMA, and the kickoff of that was last Thursday. Now it will be a series of kickoff meetings with each community in the county to*

*get FEMA funding for the disaster fight and the infrastructure that was damaged as a result of the disaster. The other part of that is the Hazard Mitigation Grant program and we are trying to get that to kick in early, which means we would mitigate sites like the houses at the base of the Woodson slide and homes in the Mist-Birkenfield and Vernonia area.*

*Dave Garrett, Director of Recovery with FEMA, is coming to Oregon today from Washington DC to personally view the flood damage in Vernonia and Mist, specifically the schools.*

**COMMISSIONER CORSIGLIA COMMENTS:**

*Commissioner Corsiglia - along with everything else going on, he spent the last 3-4 days with his mother at the hospital.*

*He is concerned about more potential weather related problems and cautioned everyone to pay close attention while driving because you never know what may be around the next corner.*

**COMMISSIONER BERNHARD COMMENTS:**

*Commissioner Bernhard attended the town hall meeting in Vernonia put on by Senator Wyden.*

*She also attended the NWACT meeting last week. After an update on the storm, a lot of discussion was held on the transportation system, both State and countywide, as result of the slides. Everyone is concerned with the what the weather will bring between now and spring. Discussion was also*

*held on the STIP projects, which is all the different listing of all the projects throughout the 3 county area and they did some prioritizing of them.*

*On Thursday, she attended the NOHA meeting. HUD seems to be coming down with different regulations on a regular basis. NOHA is working on compliance. There still continues to a difficulty with housing in the community for those in need.*

*There was some good information shared at the recent meeting with FEMA.*

*On Saturday evening, she attended the coronation for the Fair & Rodeo Court Queen and Princesses. The whole pavilion was full of people that came to support this event. There is a lot of support in this community for the Fair in general.*

*Commissioner Hyde wanted to comment on the huge amount of support, donations and volunteer efforts that continue to come to the communities in Columbia County to help flood victims.*

*There was no Executive Session held.*

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*Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.*

*NOTE: A tape of this meeting is available for purchase by the public or interested parties.*

*BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON*

*By: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Anthony Hyde, Chair*

*By: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner*

*Recording Secretary:*

*By: \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

*By: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Rita Bernhard, Commissioner*

*Jan Greenhalgh*