

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

WORK SESSION

September 26, 2006

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

Commissioner Corsiglia called the meeting to order.

**OUTDOOR MASS GATHERING ORDINANCE:**

John Knight presented proposed Ordinance No. 2006-9, "In the Matter of Amending and Re-Adopting the Outdoor Mass Gathering Ordinance". The current ordinance is due to expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>, unless amended or renewed, which this ordinance will do. John noted that, for convenience, he attached a copy of the Administrative Rules to the ordinance. John reviewed all the changes made to the ordinance since the hearing and addressed all concerns that were raised. Regarding the application form, until an actual form is adopted, a person can create their own. John would recommend that the costs involved be approved by order and not included in the ordinance itself. That way, the cost could be simply amended by order. He suggested the cost be the same as a conditional use permit of \$970. After review of all changes, John stated that he would prepare an order to address the fee amount.

Commissioner Bernhard brought up the concern raised by Lu Parshall that 1000 persons was too many and that number should be lower. Is there a way to address that. John suggested that the number persons also be approved by order so that it can be changed, if necessary, without having to amend the ordinance. Lengthy discussion was held on the number of people and where it should be designated, in the ordinance or in the order. After discussion, John will make some revisions to the ordinance and draft a Board order reducing the amount of gatherings to 500-999 persons and add language that the Board, in its discretion, waive the requirement of publishing notice and holding a public hearing. The fee will also be addressed in the order. He will have those prepared by tomorrow for Board action.

**JULIE GASSNER, MTC - QUARTERLY UPDATE:**

Julie Gassner, MTC, 450 Marine Drive, Astoria, Karen Miller and Diana Nish, MTC, 500 N. Columbia River Hwy, Suite 300, St. Helens, came before the Board to give a quarterly update. Julie gave the Board an update on workforce, MTC and their partners. Julie talked about a training grant they received for all eligible employers in Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. Target industries are aviation, agriculture, construction, health care and technology. They have around \$140,000 available and will be reviewing their first round of applications this week. This is part of the Governor's Workforce Response Team.

Karen Miller spoke specifically to programs in Columbia County. MTC offers employment skills, GED prep classes, computer classes, weekly networking class for people looking for work, one on one case management and support services. MTC has instituted a card scan system this year for anyone who comes in for services. This will help give a more accurate account of the number of people served. She touched on the Job Fair, and stated that this is the last year they will have funding for this project. After that, they will be looking for money to host the Job Fair. Karen stated that all the employees in her office live in the county and are very committed to helping people in Columbia County.

Diana Nish works with the youth in the county. They have done a lot of job clubs in the schools and Vernonia is probably this biggest one. She was there almost every month last year and they hit on different things, not all employment related, but how to stay in school and take better care of themselves. Then they did one large training during the summer where the kids are bused in for the week. The National Guard Drug Prevention Team gave a two day leadership training and team building, local businesses came to speak about career opportunities and budgeting along with many other activities. They hope to do this every year. Another program is a result of an Oregon Youth Conservation Corp grant they received. They had 5 youth that worked out on Sand Island for 7-8 weeks, another job with Vernonia Public Works for the summer, some work in the coffee cart in the MTC lobby. Regarding the GED program, Diana mentioned that the 2005-06 year there was 10 people that got their GED, and since July 1, 2006, there has been 5, so this is a successful program. The last thing she wanted to mention is that this was the sixth year of the Survivor Youth Leadership experience which is a week long camp down at OSU. This is an excellent program and hope that continues. Commissioner Bernhard understands there are other communities that are trying to copy this program because it is so successful.

#### **FRED BUTCHER - YOUTH GROUP:**

*Fred Butcher, 33600 Ruby Lane, St. Helens and Mark Scrivener, 59305 Barr Avenue, St. Helens,* came before the Board to present a proposal for the use of the PGE Trojan site, called the Lazarus Project. The proposal is a faith based nonprofit organization whose goal is to house, educate, and provide occupational training to individuals who have slipped through the cracks. Targeted clients would be abused women and children, at-risk youth, men and women prison aftercare and unwed mothers. There would be both transitional and dormitory housing. There would be education classes on independent living skills, money management, nutrition, substance abuse education, gang intervention, sex education, good citizenship, child rearing skills, GED and college prep classes. Occupational training would include pre-employment work maturity, work ethics, job skills, job placement and aftercare. They would also partner with the other service providers in the county. Fred will be meeting the PGE tomorrow to answer questions on this proposal. Fred noted that Mark and his group, along with Jan Kenna and Commissioner Corsiglia, had visited the site in early September.

Mark worked with this program in Texas for about 5 years, which is the #1 such facility in the nation. Because of the types of services and classes provided, 8 out of 10 kids never go back into the system again. The cost is about \$14 million annually to run, with 500-600 kids. The money comes from federal grants, private donations and working shops. It would take at least a year to get

set up and running, get certifications, etc. That is why they need the county to get involved and get their support.

The Board supports this concept, however, Commissioner Hyde would suggest that Fred and Mark also meet with Stan Mendenhall, Donna Tewksbury and those who deal with these types of services to get their support and buy-in. He is always concerned when a program is grant funded. The more sustainable, the better.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(1)(d) - BARGAINING:**

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(1)(d). Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

**LOCKED GATE ON CZ TRAIL:**

Commissioner Hyde brought up an issue regarding the CZ Trail. There are a couple of land owners that are having issues because we said we weren't going to open the trail until we mitigated their issues. The Road Department went out and removed some rocks and opened the gate. Those land owners were upset and Commissioner Hyde told the Road Department to put the rocks back because we haven't opened the trail yet. However, there is a gate that the county has a chain on and is open enough to allow walkers to go through the gate. There is one particular land owner that also has a lock on that chain so they can access the back of their property. They have been closing the gate tight and locking it. The county cut the lock off and opened it up enough for walkers to get through again. The guy locked it again and now the county is getting calls from people about this problem. Commissioner Hyde feels the county should inform this land owner that the gate remain unlocked or the gate will be totally removed. The Board agreed.

With nothing further coming before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Corsiglia, Chair

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

Rita Bernhard, Commissioner

Board Secretary:

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

Jan Greenhalgh

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

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner