

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 24, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in scheduled session with Commissioner Rita Bernhard, Commissioner Anthony Hyde and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel and Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary.

OREGON TRAIL RALLY:

Matt Tabor, Chairman of Oregon Rally, 1712 NE 156th Street, Vancouver, and Mike Nagle, Rally Master, SW Portland, are here to talk about the annual event. Mr. Tabor hands out a presentation giving background of Rally America as well as the history and economic impact of nine events taking place around the country and in and around Vernonia. Mr. Nagle hands out a history of their connection with Columbia County and the roads that have been used over the last 10 years. They foresee Columbia County being an integral part of their event. They have an annual event in mid-April to mid-May with approximately 60 cars from all around the country and drivers from around the country and internationally. Mr. Nagle also handed out their safety plan, and explained why they feel they are a responsible organization. The annual event lasts an entire weekend. Last year, the service area was in Vernonia. They promote the event in Portland the week before. The event starts on Friday evening at Portland International Raceway with a kick-off.

Mr. Nagle believes a couple thousand people watch the event. They only publish the two areas where people can go to see it, they do not publish the entire route, so people are not spread out along the entire route. The roads utilized are generally gravel, logging and forest roads. They work with a contractor and the landowner, the Roadmaster or engineer in charge. Matt Pihl has been used for years and has received great reviews for the work they do. The County Road master wants to take care of the roads himself. Mr. Nagle will have a crew go over the roads before the event to get them ready. They are responsible about what they do, and they want to come back to Columbia County. They have been operating with the State forestry department since 1995. Mr. Nagle indicates they are here today to ask that they continue to be allowed to work with and in Columbia County. Commissioner Bernhard indicated that the Board will take it under advisement, and if they have questions they will contact them.

COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION - PRESENT PLAN AND FUNDED PROJECTS

Bill Eagle, 151 Allendale Drive, St. Helens, Board member; Ernie Carman, 21783 Swedetown Road, Clatskanie, OR, Vice Chair; Tobie Finzel, Post Office Box 15, Vernonia, OR, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Lou Rogers, 32815 NW Ridge Drive, Scappoose, OR, Board member; Darrel Whipple, 76439 Alston-Mayger Road, Rainier, Grants Chair. Ms. Finzel presents the Board with the Plan, indicating that the Oregon Cultural Trust required it. Commissioner Bernhard asks whether the Coalition has had any contact with the Museum Association. Ms. Finzel stated that they have been in constant communication. Commissioner Hyde stated that once the courthouse museum is open, the next step will be looking for a new sight for a museum, and the Coalition will play a key role in that.

The Plan lists the projects for which they have spent \$21,000 on this past year.

For the current fiscal year, they revised the goals a bit, reiterating cultural activities and the natural environment and preserving our historical culture. There was some discussion about the Oregon 150 funds, and Commissioner Hyde stated that he will connect the Oregon 150 with the Coalition. Ms. Finzel also presented the Board with a copy of the By-Laws. Commissioner Hyde will have County Counsel review.

GLEN CRINKLAW, Assistant Public Works DIRECTOR:

Glen and Dave Hill wanted to brief the Board on the gate across County property at Dibblee Point. Dave stated that Spencer Parsons sent Craig Smith a letter, asking him to remove the gate within a certain time frame. He then received a call from Mr. Smith, who was very upset about it and is likely to call the Board.

Mr. Smith uses the County property for access to the State lands, and also uses the County property for dredging materials. He put up a gate because he experienced serious vandalism to his equipment. Lori Baker, both with Parks and Friends of Dibblee Point, is concerned about the gate restricting access to Dibblee Point.

Glen says that with the Friends, their primary interest is access to the estuary with a vision of it becoming a park space.

Glen is asking for approval to receive some grant funding for two projects, one is the Scappoose Vernonia road overlay, a 1.5 mile section near the summit. The second application is for one of the bridges on Alder Creek along the C-Z Trail.

These Title II projects are not a sure thing, there will be a lot of competition for these grants. There is also a third grant application to the State Marine Board to defray the deflection boom off of Coon Island. With high water events, there is a serious debris collection without a deflection boom. With some discussion, the Board agreed that all three applications will be added to the consent agenda.

VICKI HARGUTH, EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Vicki is here to request approval by the Board of the HSEMC selection of an Incident Commander and Deputy Incident Commander for the two Incident Management Teams.

Those who fill these positions can work out the details of the plan and appoint other members. For the first team, HSEMC has recommended as Incident Commander Marvin Hoover, currently the Clatskanie Police Chief; and Deputy Incident Commander as Chris Lake. On Team 2, Mark Kreutzerter as Incident Commander, on the Board of CRF&R, and also a Captain with Tualatin Valley & Fire, and Andy Moyer, currently Undersheriff, as Deputy. Vicki says there is training for these positions and thinks it costs around \$35,000. There is currently money in the UASI budget to cover this. She doesn't believe, at this point, that the County will incur any expenses. Commissioner Hyde believes that having Incident Management Teams is a very good thing, and states that there is cost involved for the County when our employees are away from their desk. Also, given the uncertainty over the budget, Commissioner Hyde doesn't want to make any commitments for expenses. Vicki believes the only commitment is time. Lonnie Welter is on the team, and he has Dave Hill's approval; Jackie Welter has Todd Dugdale's approval.

Vicki needs approval to appoint these individuals, after which she will call and inform them of their selection. Vicki says the Board approved the implementation plan in concept back in November. She has written notes based on her conversation with Sarah Hanson on what needs to occur, and will be working with the leadership of those two teams to accomplish that. She expects it to be in place by June.

She confirmed that the team will just be chosen but not asked to act until the plan has been approved. Sarah stated there are details that need to be put in place, and that these are policy decisions that should be made before the group is established. Vicki indicated there were 2 senate bills passed in the last legislative session for public safety, both addressing liability, which falls under the County EOC structure. Commissioner Fisher wants it to be clear that the appointment of the team leaders is a mere component, that nothing will happen before the plan is approved, and that the Board may decide to halt it altogether.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that she believes the leaders' expertise will be valuable in constructing a plan. With that, Commissioner Hyde moved to approve the appointments to the Incident Management Team, and Commissioner Fisher seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

JEAN RIPA, HUMAN RESOURCES:

Work Session Minutes

2/24/09

Page 4

Jean Ripa discussed the suggested job description changes from Milliman, who updated all of the job descriptions. Milliman felt the vast majority were on track and didn't need to be updated, but felt that about a dozen needed changes.

Most of those have gone through the departments and on to civil service. There are two that must come before the Board – the Finance Director and Juvenile Director, which are not civil service positions. In both positions, Milliman's recommendation was to increase the required experience needed. With little discussion, the Board moved approval of the changes to these job descriptions to the consent agenda.

Jean then discussed the issue of video options for Board meetings. She and Phillip Barton conducted quite a bit of research. 12 out of 35 counties have screening service on their website. Most do it in conjunction with the local t.v. channels, which we don't have. In Washington County, they have a professional service. The City of St. Helens recently installed a new system costing over \$100,000. Douglas County is the only one that installs and operates their own system, which has become a massive undertaking for the IT Department. Multnomah County out-sources it. Tillamook provides an audio stream on their website, not video.

The County IT department is at their limit and cannot take on more tasks. Jean suggests they could start immediately audio streaming on the website. She believes the chip from the current recording device can be transferred to the web. Option 2 is to have Jan contact the service who works in Washington County and see if they would be willing to come out here and at what costs. Jean believes the County is looking at \$20,000 to \$100,000 in costs. Option 3 is to get an RFP out and see what comes in. Discussion was held on the big T.V., and whether it would go in to Room 308 or the Board's back room. Jan and Lorraine are working together on that. Option 4 is contacting the high schools or PCC to see if they have media programs and whether they would like to take on this project. Commissioner Bernhard believes the secret is to simplify – nothing extravagant is needed. Commissioner Fisher asked whether this was really a project they wanted to get involved in and, if so, it would need to be funded and staffed appropriately. Jean asks whether the Board would like her to move forward with a RFP. Commissioner Bernhard believes that is the direction to take if this is something they really want to do. The Board confirmed that Jean should move forward with the RFP.

Jean will reschedule the discussion about employee evaluations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(h):

Work Session Minutes

2/24/09

Page 5

The Board recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session as allowed under ORS 192.660(2)(h) - Litigation, ORS 192.660(2)(e) - Real Property, and ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Bargaining.

Upon coming out of Executive Session, no action was taken by the Board.

The Board recessed the work session and immediately went into a meeting with the Parks Advisory Commission.

GROUP MEETING WITH PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION - EXTENSION ROOM

Present were Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Earl Fisher, together with Spencer Parsons, Assistant County Counsel and Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting Board Secretary. Commissioner Tony Hyde had to be excused 10 minutes after the meeting began.

Also present were Bill Eagle, Bill Goodwin, Chuck Parks, Cathryn Hammond, and Mr. and Mrs. Rice, all members of the Parks Advisory Commission, along with Janelle Snyder from the Ford Foundation, Janet Wright, Board assistant, Dave Hill, Public Works Director, Glen Crinklaw, Assistant Public Works Director, and Teresa Golson, Parks secretary.

Commissioner Hyde stated that they wanted to meet with the Parks Advisory Commission to touch base and share philosophical ideas. He has been working toward a resolution to the last 1 ½ miles of the C-Z trail to connect it with the other trail. He has had some discussions with the land owner, and will continue to work with him. He has also talked to the State Parks about the railroad grade, requesting an audience with the entire Parks Commission.

Mary Deschene, RARE participant, gave an update on the C-Z Trail. She went through the Parametrix summary of mitigation found at the back of their report, explaining that the mitigation plan is a procedural process. Janet Wright indicated that the Board had stated that an actual plan would have to be adopted, but that the Board was seeking in-put from the Parks Commission.

Dave Hill indicated that the new guardrails found in places on the C-Z trail were installed as part of the grant funding.

Work Session Minutes

2/24/09

Page 6

Mary stated that there are bollards to install, starting at Chapman Landing, and the signage, samples of which were passed around, has been designed by the Ford Foundation volunteers. Dave Hill asked whether the Commission had seen the designs for signs; they had not prior to this meeting. Janelle Snyder from the Ford Foundation stated that this was a concept for the designs of the signs, and understands the design would need approval.

Commissioner Bernhard stated that she believed Commissioner Hyde wanted to wait to do some of these tasks until the trail was formally opened. He also wanted to resolve some of the issues with the neighbors. Janet Wright agreed, but indicated that the neighbor issues were wrapped into the mitigation plan.

Dave Hill recommended that the section between Hwy 30 and B&B Market be formally opened, given all of the Ford Foundation's work on this project. He also stated that he has arranged for the bollards to be installed in the next few weeks.

Some discussion was had on whether the name of the trail should remain C-Z Trail. Consensus was that it was already known by that name and the name should remain, at least for now.

The Parks Advisory Commission approved the signage by unanimous vote. Dave Hill indicated that the Board would also have to approve the signs.

Glen Crinklaw then started on a general update of the parks. He stated that, in 2008, fees collected from parks covered about 50% of the costs of operating the parks, indicating a need to find ways to improve the parks and increase revenue, such as improving grounds appearance, bathrooms, etc. Glen went on to discuss each individual park, with the current status and future plans.

Glen also mentioned two capital projects - the deflection boom being installed near the new docks on Coon Island at a cost of \$200,000, with funding from the Marine Board, and paving at Big Eddy this summer.

Dave Hill pointed out that the next timber harvest from Carcus Creek was scheduled for 2010, and the Parks Commission should be thinking about that.

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Work Session Minutes

2/24/09

Page 7

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Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 24th day of February, 2009.

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: _____

Rita Bernhard, Chair

By: _____

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

Earl Fisher, Commissioner

By: _____
Cynthia Zemaitis, Acting