

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 13, 2009

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled work session at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Rita Bernhard and Commissioner Earl Fisher present, together with Sarah Hanson, County Counsel, and Jan Greenhalgh Board Secretary. Commissioner Hyde was not present.

Commissioner Bernhard called the meeting to order.

UPDATE ON ST. HELENS "SPLASH PARK":

The "Splash It Up" group is working with the Ford Family Foundation on a splash park in the Courthouse Plaza. Al Peterson, Jill Stockwell and Joe Lewis were present to update the Board on the Splash It Up proposal. Al presented a site design map for visuals and explained the conceptual ideas for the park. One concern that has been raised is the Lewis & Clark walking path which has been deteriorating and some pieces missing. Another is a specific walkway to the splash area which is included in the plan. He then reviewed the specifics for the actual splash area. The idea is to improve the overall site and make it usable. He also presented a design map of the total area of the plaza with proposed improvements.

The idea is to sell name pavers to be inset surrounding the water area. The Board asked about the directional stone seating areas (North, South, East West) and the possibility of kids running into them. Al stated that those seats will have water spraying out and make them very visible, so that should not be a problem.

Commissioner Fisher asked about lighting and suggested putting lights in the directional seating areas. Al thought that to be an excellent idea and will check into that. Bill Potter addressed the maintenance and water issues. He understands that the City of St. Helens will be supplying both. Al noted that the Courthouse Plaza is locally listed as a historic landmark and has to go through the Historic Landmark Commission. They need Board approval because it's county property and then it has to be approved by the Historic Landmark Commission. Commissioner Bernhard asked how this would effect the historic issues. Al explained what can and cannot be done and, under the rules, this can be done. After discussion, Commissioner Fisher moved and Commissioner Bernhard seconded to approve the conceptual design as presented to allow the "Splash It Up" group to move forward. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bernhard informed the group that they will need to work with Bill Potter on this project.

TITLE III FUNDING:

Cynthia Zemaitis informed the Board that a notice will be coming out this week in the newspapers asking for proposals for Title III funding. Proposals must be submitted by 10/29/09. Because we are a month late getting started on this, it needs to be fast-tracked. We need to have certifications back to the Secretary of Interior by February 1, 2010. The O&C wants to submit all certifications together by December 30, 2009. The Board will need to review the proposals and tentatively approve the projects they want to see this funding spent on. There will then be a 45 day comment period, after which the Board will formally approve the projects and submit the certifications to O&C prior to the December 30, 2009 deadline. Cynthia noted that some jurisdictions are holding public hearings on proposed projects, however hearings are not required. The Board felt there is not enough time allowed to hold any public hearings. The Board will consider proposals on November 4, 2009.

There was no Executive Session held.

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

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon this 13th day of October, 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: _____ Not Present

Anthony Hyde, Commissioner

Recording Secretary:

By: _____

By: _____
Jan Greenhalgh, Board Secretary

Earl Fisher, Commissioner