

Government Affairs Minutes



Friday, December 2nd, 2011 • 8:30am • Starker Conf. Room

Call to Order

B. Grant

Meeting was called to order at 8:30am

Approve Minutes

B. Grant

November Minutes
Motion – Kelley Kaiser
Second – Helen Higgins
Minutes Passed
Nick Fowler abstained as he was not at meeting.

Liaison reports

J. Dixon & H. Brauner

City Update – Hal Brauner:

Will receive update on EDC recommendations at next Monday's Council meeting

Plastic Bag Ban issue is in administrative services committee. Council did not support as it was presented. This issue will come back to council at the April meeting.

There is a possibility of a roundabout on 53rd that will require the County's final approval. 53rd is a County Road, West Hills is a County Road and is both a City and County street on either side. Three corners are in City limits and one is in the County. It's been presented to Council as an information item, with no request for action at this time. Neighbors are very opposed to it. Engineering staff from City and County support it as presented. It has been before the City's bike & pedestrian committee with support, and the City's transit committee also supports it. There are similar roundabouts locally on N. Albany Rd, which is slightly smaller. A newer one is on Knox Butte Rd which is about the same size as this proposed one with similar speed limits. Both had opposition when proposed, and both have general support now that they are in. The Corvallis Metro Planning Org is also reviewing this. (This represents Corvallis, Philomath, Adair and ODOT, who recommended approval.) The cost to the City of the roundabout verses the light and ongoing maintenance is about the same over its lifetime. The initial plan for this roundabout is a single lane. This will handle projected traffic for quite a while, and can be expanded if need be in the future. A single land is safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. It will likely come back to the City in the near future for approval.

Discussion on place within the committee regarding the size of the median and if it's built larger, it might be more accepted by the community.

Changed the budget process to make it more Council intensive that follows closer to the actual law, and shortens the budget committee process with more up front work by the Council.

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County Update – Jay Dixon:

The County Commissioners have not taken a position on the roundabout.

The County was interrogated re: Chief Operating Officer Position. Should there have been someone in this position, there might not have been an issue with County/City conversations with the . There were several applicants that have been woven down to 4 final applicants for this position. Interviews will take place Monday. Public interview takes place from 4-6 at the library.

There has been discussion about consolidation of finance, budget and assessment appraisal into one. The new COO will select whoever will lead this organization. Need to work on bringing expenses in line with revenue.

Very impressed with the new City Manager and are having conversations regarding partnering with the City. One conversation is to have two IT departments, and possibly have one HR department verses 2.

Linn Benton – Jeff Davis:

The Community College system (national, state, local) is developing a Completion Agenda designed to increase the number of completers for both 2 yr degrees and certificates. Graduation numbers at LBCC are between 900-1,100 students per year (this includes both degrees and certificates) and the intent is to increase these numbers both here and around the state and country. The state budget outlook is for approximately flat funding for the 2nd year of the biennium, and LBCC has budgeted based on a conservative estimate, so they are less likely to be impacted than other colleges. OSU is working with LBCC to track "reverse credentials" where students who transfer from LBCC to OSU without degrees but eventually complete required credits are awarded 2 yr degrees through performance tracking systems.

Capital projects are in the early stages of planning in Lebanon to include an advanced transportation center. There is a lot of workforce-related coordination with both existing health care systems (Samaritan, Western University of Health Sciences) and anticipated with the new VA hospital once completed. It was suggested that LBCC consider recognizing completion of job-specific skills employers want that may take less time than degrees. LBCC has a large network of career technical advisory committees and there are ample opportunities for employers to advocate for training and policy that benefit their industry.

Oregon State University – Jock Mills:

City/University MOU: OSU and the City of Corvallis will conduct a public meeting 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at the Corvallis Senior Center, 2601 NW

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Tyler Avenue regarding the memorandum of understanding between the two that addresses the university's growth and its impact on the city and surrounding neighborhoods.

OSU and City leadership have been working to develop the scope of a project to address issues and opportunities associated with the future growth of OSU and the Corvallis community. The proposed scope of work, to be undertaken over the next 2-3 years, addresses the major topics areas of:

- Parking and traffic mitigation in campus area neighborhoods
- Neighborhood planning and
- Neighborhood livability

The purpose of this meeting will be to present the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Corvallis and OSU that commits both entities to this collaborative effort and to review the proposed scope of work that has been developed to help achieve goals shared by the University and the City. In addition, next steps in this effort will be described. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

Capital Construction at OSU: In February, OSU will be seeking legislative authorization for three capital projects that were deferred during the 2011 legislative session. All three projects involve Article XI-F revenue bonds that will be repaid by student fees and room & board. They include: MU East wing renovation (\$9.6 million, Student Experience Center (\$43.6 million), and a new student residence (\$30.0 million). The Ways and Means Capital Construction Committee will consider these projects when it meets in mid-November.

NW Natural – Kip Much:

NW Natural will be meeting with Jim Patterson regarding the pipeline installation. The City wants \$50k for the pipeline to run through the parks. NW Natural is exploring alternative routes. The City is concerned that the parks will not be developable. These pipelines will be installed tens of feet below ground.

Pacific Power – Doris Johnston:

Pacific Power has had contacts with franchise utility specialist regarding disconnecting lights and such due to the City's financial crisis.

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Local

Economic Development Commission

P. Lampton

Full commission has a smaller group working polishing up the proposal as it's moving forward. Elizabeth French and Skip Rung will be meeting with Council to provide an update with progress on proposal. Final recommendation will be presented in January. The full commission needs to review the proposal prior to it going to Council. The focus will be within Oregon State, as this is where the real potential for Economic Development in the future. This will dovetail with the OSU/City MOU.

The County has expressed interest in partial funding with the City for the Economic Development efforts. This will potentially be an Economic Development department within the City.

Other

Oregon Business Plan Summit will take place on December 12th and 13th. This year's conference will focus on the following areas; performance based budget for government, health care and education. Go to www.oregonbusinesssummit.org.

Citizens Bank hosted an Economic Development conversation yesterday. Materials will be sent out to committee for review.

Eric Blackledge has a web site that has more information for review that you can find at: www.nationalsmallbusiness.net.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:42am.