

Government Affairs Minutes



Friday, January 6th, 2011 • 8:30am • Starker Conf. Room

Call to Order

B. Grant

Meeting called to order at 8:30am

Mayor Julie Manning

J. Manning

Three handouts were disbursed to the committee to review today.

*Corvallis City Council Goals 2011-12

*Oregon State University – City of Corvallis Collaboration Project

*Citizen Attitude Survey Results

Regional Solutions Group:

Regional Solutions Group has been constructed by Governor Kitzhaber. Six regional solution center will be placed around the US. Linn/Benton/Lane Counties will be housed at University of Oregon. Five state agencies will be located in one place to create an easy dialogue and an easy one stop concept for that particular region of the state. These businesses for this region are Business Oregon, LCDC, DEQ, Housing & Community Development Group & one other. There is a community based advisory group, which Frank Morse is the convener for. Linn Benton President Greg Hamann, Mayor Julie Manning and Nick Fowler are all on the board. One meeting took place at the end of September. Each of the Regional advisory groups' goals are to come up with the priority areas that our region wants to work on. One priority is the work that has been ongoing to identify and prioritize the larger parcels of industrial lands in this region, and to work with willing property owners on prioritizing those lands and developing a strategy for industrial wetlands mitigation and working with banks to fund. These are parcels of at least 20 acres each. The other priority project has to do with workforce development in startup that will provide more real time customization of jobs as we continue to innovate to help match needed job training and new job development. The goal is for the Universities to work with employers to work with students as we continue to innovate.

Corvallis City Council Goals 2011-12:

We are half way through current council's term at this point. Goals document was handed out to committee.

OSU – City of Corvallis Collaboration Project:

Documents handed out to the committee for review.

Three priority areas that have been agreed to focus on initially. OSU & City of Corvallis have entered into an agreement to work on these areas and share costs in these areas.

One area is to engage a project manager who will work exclusively on this project w/Ken Gibb and counterpart at OSU, along with the steering committees and work groups to focus

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on these areas.

Hope to have traffic consultant on board by the end of this month.

A project web site is hoped to be constructed and up by the end of the month to communicate with the public. The week of January 23rd is the estimated date for the steering committee's next meeting.

Citizen Attitude Survey Results:

Document handed out to committee for review. The entire survey is available online for review. The previous year's responses are also there for review, other cities our size and other university towns for review.

Each year the City of Corvallis a survey is sent out to citizens of Corvallis.

The main areas for the City to work on is Economic Development, with the second being affordable housing.

City of Corvallis Budget update:

We are half way through our budget year at this point. There is an anticipated shortfall of \$1-2 million, which is slightly less than last year.

There will be 2 City Council work sessions, likely to occur on the 4th and 11th of February (Saturday mornings). At these work sessions the department directors will bring forward their concepts, not specific recommendations, but ideas for how they intend to meet their budget targets within their departments. There are 5 different filters that will be used to evaluate what staff brings forward. Staff has been asked to bring forward areas that can be outsourced, to determine what has to be done by City employees, and what might be able to be outsourced and done less expensively. After the work sessions are complete, the staff will put together the information for the full budget commission to be reviewed at the April work session.

County Update

Benton County Commissioners have hired a C.O.O. He won't be here until March 1st, but is already engaged.

Hopes for the COO to focus on the expenses to be brought into line with existing revenues.

A grant was applied for to continue the operations for railroad trails. Continued rail use for

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freight is fine, but doesn't believe any other use should be pursued by the County.

NW Natural

City is serious about keeping the parks unencumbered. Looking for alternative route as the cost is too high to lay the pipe.

Pacific Power

There is money available to convert to light fixtures that use less energy. If you know of a business that would benefit from this, tell them to get in touch with Pacific Power to discuss options.

Approve Minutes

B. Grant

Minutes approved

Plastic Bag Ban

M. Eastham

A meeting will take place next week regarding the single use plastic bag ban. Any input on these issues is welcomed. The City has specifically called out that the Government Affairs Committee wanted to be involved in the discussions.

Other

Legislative Breakfast will occur January 26th at 8:00am at First Presbyterian Church.

Economic Development Proposal:

January 17th @ the Firehouse the Economic Development will present the proposal to the Commission. Show up at this meeting and support this proposal.

Government Affairs Committee meetings will now begin at 8:00am.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:40am