

Government Affairs Minutes



Friday, October 17th, 2011 • 12:00pm Starker Conference Room

Call to Order

B. Grant

Meeting called to order at 12:03pm

Last Month's Action Items

B. Grant

Follow up with Mark O'Brien regarding Council's decision on the bypass. Email outcome to GAC members.

Continue to send notices to the committee regarding meetings that they should attend from a business standpoint moving forward.

Email legislative platforms developed last fiscal year to GAC group. Identify a few areas to discuss at Attorney General Forum. GAC members attending forum will bring up items at forum.

Speak with McGraths regarding hosting legislative breakfasts.

Send committee current options for distributing information to a larger scale of people with constant messages for business. Identify current and future options of sending information to membership and beyond.

Approve Minutes

B. Grant

July & August Minutes

Motion to approve July minutes: Kip Much

Second: Mike Corwin

Motion passed, no abstentions

Motion to approve August minutes: Mike Corwin

Second: Kip Much

Motion passed, no abstentions

Local

Jim Patterson Meeting

B. Grant

Discussion planning for meeting with Jim Patterson at Nov meeting took place.

The committee would like to go in with a fresh slate and show we are in partnership with him and commit to supporting him in his efforts to improve the business climate in Corvallis.

Show that the GAC and Chamber are willing to engage with him.

Action: Request Jim's thoughts on approach to business, history and challenges faced.

Government Affairs Minutes

Friday, October 17th, 2011 • 12:00pm Starker Conference Room

Questions for Jim:

What role are you going to take in Economic Development? Should we expect you will take a similar role here as you did in Sherwood?

Would you support funding an individual for Economic Development?

ACTION: In future meetings the GAC should develop a list of priorities to provide the new City Manager/City Council with. Share thoughts on how we can be more successful for business in Corvallis while sustaining and maintaining the lifestyle that Corvallis wants to be, while being pro-business.

Discussion took place around considering a nominal business license fee to assist with capturing more local business data as well as bring in additional revenues. (This will take communicating with local businesses to understand that they do fall into the traded sector if you bring business in from outside the community, and helping them to understand the definition of traded sector overall. Most businesses in Corvallis do fall into this category.)

Questions for the GAC and Chamber Board to consider:

What is Economic Development to us (The Chamber)?

Items for the GAC to work on and commit to:

- 1. Work with the EDC*
- 2. Perception shift within community (puts positive light of business growth on the community).*
- 3. The GAC make a commitment to be more visible at City Council meetings*

Economic Development Commission

P. Lampton

Instead of looking back at the choices that the City/County has made, look at the resources available and see what options they do have that we should direct them to focus on.

Spin offs from OSU – How can we provide an environment for people who start businesses to stay here? How can we help you with this?

There is a focus on the traded sector, which means much of the membership of the Chamber is not going to be directly addressed.

Discussion around whether the city will be able to fund a position for a single body within the City to handle Economic Development and assist with local businesses/programs that are looking to grow quickly. This person would be here to help these parties through the process. This would be an “Account Manager” position, and this person would pull in other parties that would help throughout the process etc.

Government Affairs Minutes

Friday, October 17th, 2011 • 12:00pm Starker Conference Room

Main areas for the City to focus on in regards to Economic Development:

**Processes need to be streamlined and smooth for businesses*

**Suggest that the City bring on an individual to handle the Economic Development process.*

**Review funding for this position. The current funding (approximately \$150,000) currently allocated in the City's budget needs to be utilized in executing the new Economic Development approach/model. A Business License Fee & URD should be considered for review as suggestions for how this position is funded.*

**Marketing plan (Potentially have the GT back the marketing and have constant communication with the EDC's actions.*

ACTION: Message that the GAC would like for the Board to approve and relay to the EDC: We appreciate and concur with the work that the EDC has done, and support exploring a new way for the City to focus on Economic Development.

New Ward Boundaries

New ward boundaries distributed to committee.

Other

ACTION: Solicit questions to be presented at the January Legislative Breakfast. November/December broadcast to potential attendees. November agenda – develop questions and discuss legislative platform.

Next Monday, October 24th - Madison Avenue Meeting room at 5:30pm.

EDC speaking on update

Julie Manning – Speaking on the MOU with OSU

Jim Patterson – field questions of business

ACTION: Distribute most recent GAC legislative priorities to GAC.

Open

The Governor has a Regional Solutions Center. Potentially have a representative to speak to the GAC regarding what it is/what's there and what the Governor's agenda is.

Adjourn