

Morrow County Citizens Economic Development Task Force

Meeting Notes for August 1, 2017

Bartholomew Building

Heppner, Oregon

Attendees: Edie Ball, Sheryll Bates, Melisa Drugge, Janette Eldrige, Julie Gisi, Cody High, Melissa Lindsay, Carla McLane, Judy Moore, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Pettigrew, Don Russell, Sarah Smith.

The meeting started at approximately 9:00 a.m. Meeting minutes for June 6, 2017 reviewed and approved as written.

Marijuana Opt-Out: City received an email from Carla with a link regarding Senate Bill 1057 with the actual enrolled version of the Bill. When the opt-out in 2015 was adopted there were only 6 types of licensing included. Four new categories have now been added that will be required to be adopted through an amended ordinance (no due date) in order to maintain total opt-out, and the amendment does not require a vote by the electors. Carla will be updating the ordinance for the county, and can share with the cities if they need a reference.

Housing as Economic Development: Tabled until next meeting.

Tourism Opportunities: Eclipse – South end has a planning committee in place, and reports that the OHV park is in the path of totality. A shuttle service is being contemplated. SAGE Center is providing live stream. County has a page for this topic with NASA link. City of Heppner has been active with media outreach.

Parks Master Plan: Being narrowed down with this current revision. Will focus primarily on the three county parks. Historically this plan has been adopted by the County Court, but this time it will also go through the Planning Commission approval process. Updates include looking at Travel Oregon for statistical details regarding usage as well as future land use for additional business opportunities at the OHV park. There is a park overlay map that includes all three parks, but still need to more clearly delineate them so the uses can be clearly identified in land use development. At the OHV park there will be future opportunity options built in for vendor services such as fuel stops and overnight stays. The Anson Wright park is the most ADA accessible, but the others will be enhanced to meet ADA compliance. There needs to be an enhancement to the Comprehensive Plan recreation element, to include the Heritage Trail, Scenic Byway, Quesnal Park, Century Bike Loop, and agritourism, as well as the potential for a guest ranch. Carla mentioned that there are some inaccuracies with the Google Maps, which Stephen is currently looking in to, such as parks identified as county when they are not.

Roundtable: Melisa Drugge – the reorganization for Business Oregon is completed; Melisa is now a regional development officer; Scott's replacement is Courtney Crowell (Fred Warner's daughter), Melissa will get her contact information out and she will hopefully be at the next meeting; Government Housing Task Force is developing an RFP for communities to participate in a pilot program, should be out in September; IFA board will meet in Hermiston then in Boardman on Friday; Lone SCWWS and Lexington are eligible for application for assistance, and whichever takes the lead would represent all three south county cities/town;

Karen Pettigrew – The OSU Extension is asking the City Council to sign a resolution so that they can become a special district and tax at a \$0.33 rate because they are having funding concerns;

Sheryll/WCVEDG – Housing rehabilitation committee and process being implemented;

Sheryll/Heppner Chamber – Eclipse; Fair dinners, parade, rodeo, etc; September bike ride will mean there is a need for another rest stop along the HWY 74 route;

Julie/Boardman Chamber – As of June 1st the chamber is partnering with the BCDA for housing/business; 4th was a success, Pendleton didn't have fireworks, which contributed to traffic; hotels are booked for the eclipse;

Aaron – Property enhancement is going well with 30 applicants and around \$60k total investment; clean-up program also going well; City Council has defined commercial and industrial development;

Judy – NWCDI was in Boise a couple weeks ago (continuing education opportunity);

Janette – Still working towards reservoir lining and park clean-up with beautification;

Edie – Street funding has been received that Greg Smith was championing, DOT will update engineering plan, not sure what street will end up getting improvements; applying for grant through ODOT for a street overlay; gathering data for TSP for contractor;

Carla – Effective today the new FU & EFU zones with embedded agritourism and guest ranch opportunities, still working on determining how to permit wedding venues, anticipating a guest ranch application; two other activities include the lone UGB expansion to include Rural Light Industrial Zone and working with the POM to change some regulations relative to the Site Development review; B2H still don't have the Record of Decision (ROD) or BLM, but do have the amended preliminary Application for Site Certificate from Idaho Power, county planning directors getting together to discuss B2H with a 45 day timeline to review for completeness; Wheatridge is moving along with site certification and final order; approved a home base business for Chis and Kathy Rauch.

Next meeting will be in Boardman City Hall on September 5, 2017.

Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.