

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2019 at 4:00 pm
Courtyard Conference Room

Committee Members:

Jon Bowen (Chair)
Cameron Camp (Vice Chair) – Via phone
Tripp Androy
Shauna Bland - Absent
Sam Engel - late
Ron Goss
Bryan Hawkins
Kenny Houck - Late
Jason Maki
Josie Molloy
Colene Martin
Gene Merrill
Julie Thomas
Hameed Shakeri - Absent
Vacant

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter - City Business Advocate
Lora Glover - PCD Director
Barry Eames - City Councilor
Valerie Lovelace – City Councilor
Lily Morgan - County Commissioner
Darin Fowler – County Commissioner
Julie Schmelzer - County CD Director
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction
Taylor Graybehl – City Planning

Guests:

Roy Lindsay – Grants Pass Mayor
Colleen Padilla – SOREDI Executive Director
Shaun Hall – Daily Courier
Jason Canady – City Public Works Director
Taylor Graybehl – City Planning
Germaine Cartmell - Citizen

● **Roll Call**

- Chair Bowen opened the meeting at 4:00 and took roll.

● **Items from Public:**

- Jason Canady spoke about an opportunity for a situational assessment of the Water Treatment Plant project. Jason left cards to fill out for anyone that may be interested in sharing an opinion. He will be sure they are interviewed. He will be added to the March agenda to do a presentation. They further discussed this topic while Jason was present.
- Colleen Padilla gave members a copy of a proclamation that the City of Medford issued last week. Southern Oregon is considered their jeweled crown with each jurisdiction representing a jewel in the crown. Their next Crown Dinner is on March 1, 2019 here in Grants Pass. SOREDI is currently working on their Strategic Planning. They are looking to bring everyone together to work on commonalities. The document she handed out shows that the City of Medford is asking for \$400,000 to fund the entire strategy which includes implementation of their highest priorities. She would love to come back to this committee to give more details at a future meeting.
- Julie Schmelzer stated that this proclamation will be in front of the County Commissioners at their meeting on Wednesday.

● **Approval of Minutes:** December 3, 2018

Motion

**Member Androy moved and Member Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2018 as presented. The vote resulted as follows:
“AYES”: Chair Bowen, Vice Chair Camp (via phone) Committee Members Androy,**

Maki, Goss, Hawkins, Molloy, Martin, and Merrill. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Members Bland, Engel, Shakeri and Houck. The motion passed.

- **Work Session Items:**

- Broadband**

- Objectives are to determine need for broadband for both residential and commercial use in rural areas plus areas of opportunity for highest and best impact.
 - Sam Engle arrived approximately 4:15 pm
 - Susan took a photo of committee members for the City Council's Strategic Planning session.
 - Kenny Houck arrived approximately 4:20 pm
 - Review and update objectives for work plan – Jon explained the Council's Strategic Planning process. He further described working on these goals to further identify the tasks that can be accomplished.
 - Cameron Camp, via phone, spoke about speaking to Congressman Greg Walden and Peter DeFazio about rural broadband. Colleen Martin brought up that Kate Laskey has a reimbursement grant of \$500,000 for the Wolf Creek and Illinois Valley areas. Wants to see if it could be combined with Cameron's efforts.
 - Julie Schmelzer spoke about locations for broadband where its best served based on where it financially makes sense. Getting out a survey is a challenge. Oregon Broadband has a survey template but there is a cost. Cameron mentioned the USDA has allowed carriers to self-report what their coverage areas are and finding better ways to survey. They define areas as unserved and underserved. Susan asked what would be good questions for our governing bodies? Cameron agreed to help. There was further discussion about our local political incentives and participation from municipalities. Cameron further explained that from a citizen standpoint, areas are being looked at that may not be profitable, but they may be necessary to have broadband in the outlying areas.
 - Julie talked about citizen unhappiness with the Smart Meters and how it ties in with broadband. She feels it's important to get a fair review and not shut down because of angst with the Smart Meters. Discussion continued about BLMs assistance with tower locations and co-sponsors, quality of service and getting proper data. Out in Cave Junction, Frontier is the provider but it's not very good so how do they get providers to improve? The survey seems like the proper tool.

- Housing**

- Jon mentioned the tasks of this group are to go deeper into the topics, spearheading topics and bringing it to the attention of our leaders.
 - The five areas of focus are: Public/Private Partnerships, Measure 102, HB 2377 which authorizes City or County to adopt ordinances or resolutions granting exemption for newly rehabilitate or constructed multiunit rental housing, CETs, and SDC incentives.
 - SDCs; where is the money going and who is seeing the benefits? A distinction is that and SDC is a fee and the CET (Constructions Excise Tax) is a tax. Those dollars can be pooled and used to offset SDCs on affordable housing. The way cities charge the SDC fees is changing. There was further discussion on the

need to educate and inform about the fees. They discussed having an ombudsman to collaborate with all agencies and to allow developers a voice.

- Julie Thomas mentioned there is money coming in for subsidized housing via the federal government and maybe agencies can report those funds to us. Darin spoke about the importance of making sure the main points align with the points of other committees, so the Council and Commissioners hear it twice.
- Tripp Androy stated that one of the priorities at Dutch Bros they want to bring in a senior level executive with more experience to fill in some key spots. There was some discussion about priorities and why they aren't getting prioritized from a staff standpoint. This committee is trying to establish priorities from a strategic planning standpoint then those priorities need to affect staffing and resource decisions and concentrate on the projects that have the highest impact.

6. Information Sharing:

- **Items from Staff –**

- Susan –

- Susan handed out Jon's talking points for the Strategic Planning Session. She encouraged anyone with comments or talking points to bring them forward. Jean Ann Miles mentioned that instead of Josephine County and Grants Pass Airports it should say Illinois Valley and Grants Pass Airports. Also, the fire suppression system needs to be mentioned. Money has been allocated but the project needs to be accomplished.
 - She has a draft letter from this committee to contact the state and local legislators to address the wildfire issues. She will send out a draft to committee members.
 - There is an alley activation listening session coming up this Thursday and another one on January 26 regarding parks. She will send out information to the group.

- **Items from Council (Grants Pass and Cave Junction)**

- Councilor Eames –

- He spoke about the condition of the reservoirs at the Council Workshop.

- **Items from Commissioner**

- None

- **Items from Committee members**

- Tripp Androy asked that the workforce issue not get lost in the shuffle.

- **Adjournment**

- Jon Bowen adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm

Next scheduled meeting: Monday, February 4, 2019 at 4:00 pm, Courtyard Conference Room

Minutes prepared by Donna Anderson, City of Grants Pass Administration.