

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2023, at 3:00 pm
Ridge Conference Room

Committee Members:

Bob Schaller (Chair)
Daniel Mancuso (Vice Chair)
Bradley Converse - Absent
Cameron Camp
Colene Martin - Absent
Ethan Lane
Gary Richardson
Gene Merrill
Josh Duval
Josie Molloy - Teams
Mark Woods - Absent
Ron Gordon
Ruth Swain - Absent
Tori Middelstadt - Absent
Tim Sweeney - Absent

Government Liaisons:

Vacant, County Commissioner - Absent
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction
Valerie Lovelace, City Council Liaison

Staff Liaisons:

Bradley Clark, Director CD - Absent
Dana Pearce, Economic Development Manager

Guests and Others:

Coleen Padilla, SOREDI
Sue Densmore, Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau
Marta Tarantsey, Business Oregon, State Liaison

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Merrill called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Three members of the public presented at the start of the meeting.
 - Colleen Padilla provided an update on Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI). Colleen shared information about their business recruiting efforts, loan programs, industry tours, elected officials' event, and SOREDI Foundation (i.e., funding for businesses and students, disaster/fire relief). The Foundation has an upcoming fundraiser on June 8th at Lava Lanes in Medford. More information at <https://soredi.org>.
 - Marta Tarantsey provided an update from Business Oregon (BO). BO hired a new Industrial Lands Specialist who will be support for the first convening of the Industrial Area Subcommittee. She is still looking for a County Commissioner liaison to sponsor the efforts for the Subcommittee. Also have new finance officer that will help with deal flow. Announced new loan program, the Loan Loss Reserve Fund, to help expand capacity at IVCDO. There is currently a grant application open through CCD Business Development for COVID-19 impacted businesses that employs low to median income individuals. A Greater Applegate is hiring a Co-Executive Director of Operations. She will be working with City staff to bring Harry & David to sponsor Art Along the Rogue event. On March 10th, Oregon Cultural trust, a division of Business Oregon, is sponsoring and convening a conversation with funders. Innovation Hub work is underway. In a few weeks, the consultant will be doing a model design day.
 - Sue Densmore, Executive Director of Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau, in partnership with the National Park Service, is bringing a \$30 million Economic Development project to Josephine County, restoration of the lodge. Project began in 2018 and is scheduled to open in 2025. Will be remarkable when it reopens and will be an asset to Grants Pass and Cave Junction. They have several historical focused projects (i.e., restoring balconies, doors, lighting,

furniture, and the creek). National Park service is doing other restoration, including seismic stabilization, wiring, plumbing, elevator, and life, safety, and accessibility upgrades. There are also restoring the guide dormitory.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of minutes from December 1, 2022.

Motion

Member Camp moved and Member Gordon seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2022, meeting. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Merrill, Members Schaller, Lane, Richardson, Duval, and Molloy. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member Mancuso. Absent: Members Converse, Martin, Woods, Swain, Middelstadt, and Sweeney.

The motion passed.

4. Work Session Items:

a. Election of Officers

- i. Chair Merrill shared that in his conversations with Committee Members there were only 2 people interested in stepping into leadership; Dan Mancuso is interested in the Vice Chair position and Bob Schaller is interested in the Chair position.

Motion

Member Camp moved and Member Duval seconded the motion to elect Member Schaller as Committee Chair and Member Mancuso as Committee Vice Chair. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Member Merrill, Lane, Richardson, Molloy, and Gordon. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member Schaller and Mancuso. Absent: Members Converse, Martin, Woods, Swain, Middelstadt, and Sweeney.

The motion passed.

b. Committee Vision Discussion

- i. Short presentation by Staff Liaison Pearce
1. CEDC purpose and responsibilities from the bylaws. Review of Economic Development Strategic Plan.
 2. Review of strategic goals presented to City Council
 3. Recommendation for planning monthly agendas and scheduling related presentations from experts
- ii. Chair Schaller takes an inventory
1. Chair Schaller seeks feedback on strengths and weaknesses of Broadband project. Member Camp states CEDC was instrumental in bringing broadband to the community. There is now a Broadband Action Team established. Project considered complete but will stay open for updates. Marta Tarantsey notes our county’s challenges with broadband (topography, remoteness, recent fires) and reiterates the importance of grant requests matching the specific need. Member Merrill believes CEDC’s strengths are broad collaboration, but it is also a weakness. Sometimes we get stuck in the mud over City vs. County. This is a City Committee to inform Council. We should seek further County involvement and need additional business outreach but should focus on the purpose.

2. Councilor Miles requests report from Fairgrounds and Airports.
3. Member Gordon requests for a short monthly written update from each business sector represented, preferably emailed prior to the meeting.
4. Member Merrill feels focusing on subcommittees to do a deeper dive into topics and determine action items to make recommendations to City and County leadership would be best.
5. Chair Schaller feels potential role of CEDC is to reach out to RCC and business to support workforce development. Coleen Padilla shared that some work is already being done through SOREDI, Business Oregon, and Rogue Workforce Partnership. Chair Schaller also notes the importance of reviewing the Chamber's Business Retention & Expansion Survey and making comments.
7. Member Mancuso asks for clarification of the CEDC. Are we supposed to take projects from the City and County, flush the information out, and report back? Or are we supposed to come up with our own projects and "sell" them to the City and County? The answer: both. Action items can come from City or County leadership or come from the CEDC if we see something that needs to be addressed.
8. Member Duval would like to see a broaden vision for the committee that goes beyond the immediate goals of current representatives.
9. Councilor Miles & Councilor Lovelace remind the group of the committee overlap and the goal of creating committee liaisons. Councilor Lovelace would like to see a social for the committees to allow for discussion among members.
10. Member Mancuso would like to see the CEDC be tactical and work on specific projects, like getting a hotel for example. Member Duval agrees and would like to see the committee focus on a single project that can be accomplished for the year.
11. Member Gordon requests a schedule of committee meetings. Staff Liaison Pearce directed the group to find this information on the City's website. Another recommendation by Marta Tarantsey was to include liaison reports in the structure of the meeting that include meeting times. Those are then recorded in the minutes so they can always be found.
12. Agritourism and alternative lodging is brought up by multiple people. We need assistance in addressing land use regulations that are restricting this market.

5. Information Sharing

a. Committee Members

- i. Member Camp is the Board Chair of the Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Board and shared that there was an effort about a year ago to encourage the County to utilize a strategic planning process similar to the City and use the Airports as a pilot project to the planning started. This has suddenly come to the forefront this week as the entire airports department quit. County is dealing with budget shortfalls and Commissioners are "clawing back" from departments and dumping funds into law enforcement. Member Camp would like to see the County create a plan and apply for long term funding. Airports Director has agreed to stay on if they get a meaningful strategic plan. The strategic plan would be important for continuity. Member Camp also shared the FAA has a claw

back clause and, if the airport is in violation, they could claw back \$8 million. Member Camp sought a motion to send a CEDC liaison to the County Board of Commissioners and offer to assist with a County strategic plan and a pilot project on the Airports Department specifically. During discussion, we lost our quorum. Motion would have to move to the next meeting, unless serial email voting is allowed in the bylaws. Staff Liaison Pearce agreed to follow up and report back.

b. Government Liaisons

- i. Councilor Lovelace shared information and link to EV Online Open House providing details on the federal funds coming to our region to support installation of EV stations. Members are encouraged to follow the link and complete the survey. <https://odotopenhouse.org/oregon-s-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-phase-1>

c. Guests and Others

d. Meeting recap and action items

- i. Chair Schaller collected inventory
- ii. Staff Liaison Pearce will email vision presentation, link to City Committee information and schedules, EV online open house link, shared information on EV and alternative energy like natural gas and Hydrogen.
- iii. Staff Liaison Pearce will discuss serial voting through email with City Attorney regarding urgent issue of desired Airport Department motion.

6. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting: Motion to assist with Airports Department strategic plan, EV & Hydrogen discussion

7. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 23, 2023

Minutes prepared by Dana Pearce, City Staff Liaison.