

**COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Ridge Conference Room**

**Committee Members:**

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

**Government Liaisons:**

John West, County Commissioner  
Jean Ann Miles, City of Cave Junction  
Valerie Lovelace, City Council Liaison  
Marta Tarantsey, State Liaison, Business Oregon - Absent

**Staff Liaisons:**

Dana Pearce, Economic Development Manager

**Guests and Others:**

Roger Brandt

- 1) **Roll Call:** Chair Schaller called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
- 2) **Public Comment:** No public comment
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:**
  - a) Approval of minutes from May 25, 2023.

**Motion**

**Member Camp moved, and Member Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023, meeting. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Schaller, Vice Chair Mancuso, Members Camp, Martin, Richardson, Duval, and Molloy. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Member Lane. Absent: Members Converse, Merrill, Woods, Gordon, Swain, Middelstadt, and Sweeney.**  
**The motion passed.**

4) **Work Session Items:**

- a) **Presentation by Roger Brandt on airport activities and events.** Member Camp introduced Roger Brandt, a retired individual in the Illinois Valley (IV) who has been instrumental in dealing with issues and developing strategic initiatives for the airport. Mr. Brandt and Member Camp had initially met and had discussions at the Illinois Valley (IV) Airport related to fundraising activities and were focused on the possibility of having an airshow. Depending on how it is structured, it can be a big money maker for the community. Mr. Brandt informed the group that he has worked on developing an airshow at IV airport and would be presenting his knowledge on the subject.

**Background.** An Airport Layout Plan (ALP) is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to access federal funding for development. The ALP provides a map for potential development of the airport to support growth and address safety issues. Events like airshows must fit in the ALP and be approved by the FAA.

**Feasibility.** Airshows include aircraft that do aerobatic stunts which demonstration rapid changes in elevation. Air fairs may include flyovers, but do not have aircraft that perform rapid changes in elevation. For air shows to be feasible, there must be proper spacing for the “aerobatic box,” which includes specific distances from the show line (area where stunts can be performed) and the crowd line (area for spectators to observe the show). IV airport has the needed 500 feet of space for an airshow event with Category III aircraft.

**Attendance.** Viewing a map and calendar of airshows held between Portland and San Francisco and considering the airports use for fire emergencies during the months of July, August, and September, the best time for doing an airshow would likely be in early June. 75% of spectators are expected to come from within a 50-mile radius of the event. A low budget event would attract approximately 1%-2% of the estimated population within that radius, which would be approximately 3,000-6,000 attendees. Considering a moderate budget, an estimated 10,000 spectators may attend and space for parking and the event area is limited. Mr. Brandt provided an arial image indicating what this could look like at the IV Airport. Of the approximate 10,000 pilots that live within a three-hour fly time from the IV Airport location, some of those would likely be willing to fly-in for an event especially if there is an interesting theme.

**Attractions.** Attractions would include aircraft and performers in the air as well as aircraft and displays on the ground. Flyovers add an exciting element to the event. Looking at the unique themes that IV Airport has to offer, there are several potential themes that could attract visitors. One theme could be focused on smokejumpers, sky divers, and firefighting as IV Airport is the location of the oldest standing smokejumper base in the country. Another theme could be focused on 555<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion, balloon bombs, airborne infantry, and military displays as these are historic ties the IV Airport has to the events of World War II in Oregon. The final suggested theme could be focused on the Apollo 14 moon mission, NASA, astronomy, and aerospace, highlighting Stuart Roosa who started as a smokejumper at the IV Airport base and later became an astronaut for the Apollo 14 mission to the moon. To commemorate the mission, Roosa took 500 tree seeds to the moon that were brought back and distributed nationwide, known as the Apollo 14 moon trees, which became the living legacy of the Apollo program.

**Follow Up Activities.** Following the main show, having other activities will help with regulated crowd and traffic disbursement but also add to the economic benefit of the event. Flyovers, displays of fire and military equipment, museum tours, vendor booths, demonstrations, bands, kid’s programs, and exhibits are examples of follow up activities.

**Outcomes.** Money can be raised from ticket sales, sponsors, vendor fees, and raffles. However, a positive outcome would be connecting the community to the airport and impacting the life of children.

**Member Discussion.** Chair Schaller inquired about the potential for additional event parking in the industrial zone around the airport. There are some limitations to areas surrounding the airport as they are controlled by other jurisdictions. The Oregon Department of Agriculture controls land at the northwest corner of the property that has an exotic plant that is at high risk of spreading if parking for the event was allowed, so it

is not likely to be an option for this purpose. Member Camp inquired about costs and potential revenue. Mr. Brandt shared that many of the pilots and airshow experts are willing to volunteer their time if they are provided room and board or the cost of fuel is covered. It would be possible to tag on to another show and negotiate a shared price for some of the aerobatic performers. It was estimated it would cost around \$30K for the event but could bring in as much as \$100K. Member Richardson addressed the potential growth over time, starting small then getting bigger as the infrastructure is built out. Member Camp shared ideas for utilizing funds raised to support children's aviation programming and spoke to the need for a strategic plan for further development. Mr. Brandt pointed out that strategic plans must include community input and by identifying priorities in advance, controversy can be avoided.

- b) **Update from Commissioner West on County airports and other development sites (e.g., Flying Lark and Dimmick Campus).** Grants Pass Airport has a grant opportunity to extend the taxi way and the Commissioners are working on securing the needed matching funds which will allow for capacity of approximately 25 more hangers, with 6 tenants already committed to building, resulting in about 50-60 jobs. Along with the Airport Director, Steve Dobbs, the Commissioners have located a site for a Heli base. If federal funds are secured, there is potential to build out both the taxi way and the Heli base. There is a needed maximum of \$50K for the match, 10% of the \$500K grant. The County is also moving forward with the water and sewer expansion.

**Flying Lark.** The County expects to announce next week who will be the new tenant of the Flying Lark.

**Dimmick Campus.** The County is in final negotiations with new owner of the Dimmick Campus. Workforce housing will be developed in that location.

**Future Development.** The County is hoping to wrap up the real estate deals and invest in an amphitheater on the riverfront property at the fairgrounds, with the expectation it would be able to support a music festival and encourage further growth in tourism.

- c) **Quorum lost.** Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

## 5) Information Sharing

- a) **Committee Members**
- b) **Government Liaisons**
- c) **Items from Staff**

## 6) Items for Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

**7/27/23 Industrial Lands, Development at Merlin Exit, ACES** – Marta Tarantsey will provide an update on the Industrial Lands Subcommittee activities. Member Gordon will provide an update on the RV development at Merlin exit and present on ACES Subcommittee activities.

**8/24/23 Focus on Cave Junction** – Final Cave Junction hotel study from March 2017 will be shared with the group. Members Mancuso and Lane will discuss a hotel in Cave Junction. Member Camp will provide an update on the Illinois Valley Airport and potential activities and events.

**9/28/23 – Alternative lodging, housing, ADUs**

**7) Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

**Next scheduled meeting: July 27, 2023**

*Minutes prepared by Dana Pearce, City Staff Liaison.*