

MINUTES
LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Willamalane Park & Recreation District
Adult Activity Center
215 West "C" Street, Springfield

September 25, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

VOTING MEMBERS

Present

Director Greg James (Willamalane), Chair
Mayor Judy Volta (Coburg)
Mayor Gary Williams (Cottage Grove)
Mayor Bob Hooker (Creswell)
Councilor Chris Pryor (Eugene)
Mayor Phil Brubaker (Florence)
Councilor Lance Stoddard (Junction City)
Mayor Warren Weathers (Lowell)
Mayor Don Hampton (Oakridge)
Councilor John Woodrow (Springfield)

Councilor Darrell Carman (Veneta)
Commissioner Penny Jordan (EPUD)
Commissioner Mel Menegat (EWEB)
Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins (Lane ESD)
Director Tony McCown (LCC)
Director Jim Torrey (School District 4J)
Director Alan Laisure (School District 52)
Director Al King (School District 19)
Director Steve Recca (Fern Ridge Library District)

Absent

City of Dunes City Representative
City of Westfir Representative
Lane County Representative
School District 68 (McKenzie) Representative

Lane Library Representative
Western Lane Ambulance District Representative
Port of Siuslaw Representative
Siuslaw Fire District Representative

NON-VOTING MEMBER

Mike Dubick (Lane Transit District)

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Representative Terry Beyer, Representative Jean Cowan, Representative Chris Edwards, Representative Paul Holvey, Representative Nancy Nathanson, and Ben Nussbaum, Legislative Aide for Representative Phil Barnhart

GUESTS

Diane Pergamit

LCOG STAFF

Sandy Karsten, George Kloeppe, Kay Metzger, Bob Swank, Byron Vanderpool

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – WELCOME - INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Greg James called the meeting of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

LCOG Executive Director George Kloeppe called the roll of members and stated that a quorum was present.

Chairperson Greg James thanked Sandy Karsten and Kay Metzger for the delicious meal provided by the Senior Meals program for the Board members. He also introduced Diane Pergamit, Program Manager for the Willamalane Adult Activity Center.

Ms. Pergamit welcomed the Board members to the facility. She described the center and the various services it provides, which includes functioning as a site for LCOG's Senior Meals program.

2. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kloeppe referred to agenda support material entitled "Report of the Executive Committee" and noted that it included a summary of the meeting held on September 11, 2008.

5. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Kloeppe referred to agenda support material entitled "Advisory Council Reports" and noted that it included summaries of meetings of the Metropolitan Policy Committee, Senior Services Advisory Council, and Disability Services Advisory Council.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Kloeppe referred to agenda support material entitled "Comments from the Executive

Director” and reviewed information it contained. This included an outstanding Oregon Planning Institute facilitated by LCOG and the University of Oregon, a list of the money measures involving Lane County government entities that will be on the ballot in November, and recognition of successful grant applications submitted by the cities of Coburg and Creswell with LCOG’s assistance. Mr. Kloeppel also mentioned the retirement of Board minutes recorder Dan Lindstrom and welcomed the addition of Kurt Willcox in that position. Mr. Kloeppel announced that the Advocacy Committee of Senior and Disabled Services is sponsoring a legislative forum on October 18 (10:00 – Noon at Campbell Center).

BUSINESS ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson James noted that the Consent Agenda included acceptance of the June 26 Board meeting minutes and approval of the document entitled “LCOG Legislative Priorities”, which was developed by the LCOG Executive Committee.

Councilor Chris Pryor moved, seconded by Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins, to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

9. GOVERNMENT SERVICES

None

10. SENIOR AND DISABLED SERVICES ITEMS

A. Senior Meals Program Presentation and Discussion

Senior and Disabled Services (SDS) Director Kay Metzger spoke about the significant impact that the Senior Meals program and Senior Connections staff and volunteers have on the lives of those using their services. She introduced Sandy Karsten, manager of the Senior Meals program.

Ms. Karsten described the Meals on Wheels program and the dining room service operated by SDS in 12 locations around Lane County. She said these programs, in effect, “create families” for some of their isolated participants, as well as provide them with nutritious meals. These SDS programs are funded mostly by the federal government and partly by individual charitable giving, which is increasing. The only local public funds SDS receives for these programs come from the Lane County Human Services Commission, though, in some parts of the country, Ms. Karsten indicated that cities and counties contribute. Mr.

Kloeppel noted that LCOG is part of a consortium of organizations in the Willamette Valley that purchases food in bulk for Meals on Wheels and group dining programs.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

13. 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, LANE COUNTY DELEGATION PANEL

Chairperson James recommended that the Board deviate from its planned order of business and hold its discussion with those members of the Lane County legislative delegation in attendance. Board members readily agreed.

Three Board members then offered brief presentations for the legislators on three important themes (from a memo previously sent to the members of the legislative delegation): County timber payments, Area Agency on Aging “equity,” and local prerogatives.

Councilor Pryor spoke about the loss of federal timber payments to counties and urged state assistance in addressing this problem, because it impacts cities, as well as counties.

Director Al King reminded the legislators that funding for senior services is not distributed equitably to all AAA agencies within Oregon. Lane County is only receiving 85-90% of what it is supposed to and this disadvantages seniors living here.

Mayor Phil Brubaker urged legislators to make it possible for local governments to develop sustainable sources of revenue, such as a local gas tax. He also cited the need for a process that would provide better vetting of the implications of proposed ballot measures, so local governments could plan for their impacts.

Chairperson James then invited each legislator to share her/his individual priorities for the upcoming 2009 session.

Representative Paul Holvey: He will focus on consumer protection issues, such as collection agencies and toy safety, and workforce development issues, such as expanding vocational education programs and apprenticeships.

Representative Jean Cowan: She will work in the local government area on things such as the local prerogative revenue and AAA equity issues raised by LCOG.

Representative Terry Beyer: She will emphasize improving our transportation system, which will require raising revenue through the gas tax and vehicle registration fees. She believes revenue for state expenses will be very tight.

Representative Nancy Nathanson: She will be on the Ways and Means Committee. Her efforts will be in the areas of public health, drug and alcohol treatment, home care services for seniors and the disabled, helping returning veterans transition back to civilian life, expanding the reach of new technologies, and preventing metal theft.

Representative Chris Edwards: He sees the Legislature prioritizing health care, energy, transportation, land use, workforce development, and veterans issues. He expects state resources to be greatly reduced from last session. His personal priorities are in the areas of energy efficiency and reducing the incidence of autism in Oregon.

Representative Phil Barnhart (represented by Legislative Aide Ben Nussbaum): He will focus on revenue issues, such as sunseting some tax credits, expanding the state's rainy day fund, taxing moist snuff, raising the corporate minimum tax, and implementing a carbon emissions tax.

Senator Floyd Prozanski: He will be working on judicial, commerce, and natural resource issues, including tort claim problems for public bodies, dealing with the costs of new crime initiatives, working with local governments on community corrections, and cap and trade policies.

Board members and legislators then discussed a variety of issues, including new high school graduation requirements, restructuring Oregon's education system, demands on Oregon's mental health and human services programs, the impact of higher fuel costs on mass transit, use of increased revenues from the Elliott State Forest, providing incentives to decrease reliance on heating oil, and addressing liability problems for emergency responders.

Chairperson James thanked the legislators for attending the Board meeting and sharing their insights into the coming legislative session.

BUSINESS ITEMS (continued)

11. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

A. Report of Nominating Committee, Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009

Director Greg James was nominated to serve as LCOG Chairperson for 2009 and Councilor Chris Pryor was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairperson. There were no other names put forward.

The nominees were elected by acclamation, 19:0.

B. Executive Committee Vacancy, Election

It was reported that Director Susie Johnston is no longer an LCOG Board member and needs to be replaced on the Executive Committee. Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee.

Director Sherry Duerst-Higgins was elected by acclamation, 19:0.

C. Park Place Building Renovation, Financing (Executive Committee Recommendation)

Associate Director Bob Swank referred to agenda support material entitled “Park Place Building Improvement Financing” and explained that the Executive Committee was recommending that improvements be financed by borrowing about \$1.5 million.

Councilor Chris Pryor moved, seconded by Mayor Phil Brubaker, to approve borrowing up to \$1.5 million to finance the renovations in the Park Place Building. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.

D. Endorsement of LCC Bond Measure (Executive Committee Recommendation)

Mr. Kloepfel referred to agenda support material entitled “”Endorsement of Lane Community College Bond Issue Measure, November Election” and explained the Executive Committee’s recommendation.

Director Steve Recca moved, seconded by Director Alan Laisure, to endorse the bond measure submitted to the public by Lane Community College and to recommend a YES vote on November 4.. The motion was adopted 18:0:1, with Councilor John Woodrow abstaining.

E. Executive Director Salary Adjustment (Executive Committee Recommendation)

Chairperson James referred to agenda support material entitled “Executive Director Salary Adjustment” and explained the Executive Committee’s recommendation.

Director Tony McCown moved, seconded by Councilor John Woodrow, to approve a 1.5 percent merit pay adjustment for the Executive Director. The motion was adopted unanimously, 19:0.

MEMBER AGENCY CHECK-IN

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. A. “Real Choices Systems Change” Grant to State and SDS

Ms. Metzger referred to agenda support material entitled “Real Choices Systems Change Grant” and announced that the grant proposal submitted by SDS and the State of Oregon had been funded. The grant is for three years and totals \$1.6 million. It will be used to assist patients and their families in navigating through all the options and programs available to them upon discharge from acute care. This is one of only seven such grants in the country funded this year by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Director Steve Recca asked how SDS intends to sustain any services or positions funded by this grant when it expires. Ms. Metzger said SDS is hoping it will receive some assistance from the state.

**B. December 11, Board Meeting (Park Place) and January 22, 2009
Appreciation Dinner (LCC)**

Mr. Kloeppe reminded Board members that their next meeting will be on December 11 in LCOG's new offices in the Park Place Building. He also reminded Board members of the Appreciation Dinner that will be held on January 22, 2009 at LCC. He said that the nomination information for LCOG's annual awards would be out soon and encouraged Board members to think about which people and programs they want to recognize at the dinner.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Alan Laisure thanked the LCOG staff and Executive Committee for hosting such an informative evening.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

(Recorded by Kurt Willcox)