

MINUTES

Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 4th Floor Large Conference Room
99 E. Broadway, Suite 400 – Eugene

January 10, 2005 – 11:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; Tim Black, Mike Blommé, Chuck Forster, Jim Ramseyer, Rob Scoggin, John Sullivan, Mike Sullivan, Ellen Teninty, Lynnette Wikstrom, members; Deb Schmidt, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Howard Schesser, alternate member.

Steve Dignam (LCOG).

ABSENT: DeAnn Cherbas, Anna Morrison, Glenda Poling, Hal Reed, Mitch Wilkinson, members; Jay Bozievich, Philip Hudspeth, *ex officio* members.

GUESTS: Dave D'Avanzo, Ron Green, Carol Heinkel, Gloria Perez, Mark Shrives, Chuck Spies, Chip Weber, Gordon Zimmerman.

Mr. Tamulonis called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves.

1. Public, Chair and Staff Comments

Mr. Tamulonis determined no one present wished to make a special comment.

With newfound punctiliousness, Mr. Tamulonis welcomed members to 2005.

With insight gained from sharp-edged, speedy experience, Mr. Dignam declared new commitment to economic development. He reported on a recently held motor home manufacturing conference and plans being made to seek expansion of the industry in Lane County.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Teninty requested that sentence 1 in paragraph 7 on page 2 of the minutes of the November 15 meeting be changed, as follows:

Mr. Ramseyer moved, seconded by Ms. Cherbas, to recommend to the LCOG Board of Directors that Ellen Teninty be appointed to fill the ~~unexpired~~ term of Charles Spencer on the LEC.

Mr. Tamulonis determined there was no objection to the request and the minutes were amended.

Ms. Westlund moved, seconded by Mr. Scogin, to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2004, meeting, as amended. The motion was adopted unanimously, 8:0, Mr. Forster and Mr. Mike Sullivan having not yet joined the meeting.

3. Region 2050 Update

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) staff Carol Heinkel said she was pleased to have been asked to return a third time to report on the Region 2050 Project. She explained that the project was a collaborative effort to improve and sustain quality of life in the Southern Willamette Valley over the next 50 years. She said a Regional Growth Management Strategy was being developed under the guidance of a Regional Policy Advisory Board. She said current information about was available at www.region2050.org.

Mr. Mike Sullivan joined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Ms. Heinkel said she appreciated a recent LEC suggestion of the importance of an economic evaluation of the Region 2050 Project. She reported that the University of Oregon Economic Forum had agreed to review and prepare an evaluative report that would be available within two months. She said studies of the economic impacts of the plan were also being prepared by other LCOG staff, in anticipation of a public outreach effort to begin in April.

Members discussed the value of LEC being kept informed of the project and participation in its development by representatives of area Chambers of Commerce. Ms. Heinkel agreed to provide copies of the University Economic Forum report to the LEC for feedback before it was submitted to the Project Regional Policy Advisory Board.

Mr. Forster joined the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Ms. Heinkel distributed copies of a draft document entitled “Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines.” She reviewed differences it identified between Oregon Planning Program projects and the Collaborative Regional Problem Solving process used by the Region 2050 Project.

4. Community Reinvestment Act Activities

Ron Green stated that he was Commercial Credit Services Officer of LibertyBank and was responsible for administration of its Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) program. He described its development into the fifth largest bank headquartered in Oregon.

Mr. Green reviewed the LibertyBank CRA examination completed in November. He explained the local, multifamily, and small business emphases of the federal program. He described the 2005 Community Development Goals of his bank – Increase Community Development Lending and Increase employees community service.

Members discussed the report. Mr. Dignam expressed appreciation for LibertyBank support of the newly established Revolving Small Business Loan Program.

5. Local Economic Development Project Updates

A. Creswell

City Manager Mark Shrives said Creswell was continuing to grow at a fast pace, especially on the east side of Interstate 5, and that a great deal of proactive development planning was taking

place. He said land available for residential use was beginning to be in short supply and that industrial/commercial development was being encouraged.

Mr. Shrives reviewed highlights of the Creswell Downtown Plan, Interstate 5 Overpass Replacement project, and implementation of a Micro Enterprise System grant. He distributed copies of an excerpt from the Creswell Economic Development Strategic Plan and discussed information it contained about workforce readiness, infrastructure, and marketing outreach. He said a Comprehensive Plan Update process had begun.

B. Lowell

City Administrator Chuck Spies described the current status of the Lowell Industrial Park. He reviewed recreational/tourism development – Covered Bridge project, West Boundary Road project, Lowell State Park/Marina efforts, Blackberry Jam Festival, and windsurfing encouragement plans. He said reestablishment of a Lowell Downtown was being encouraged through development of a Conceptual Plan and zoning designations. He reviewed information about projects included on the State Needs and Issues inventory.

C. Oakridge

City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman described the Oakridge UPBEAT (Unique Program for Business Enhancement and Advancement Together) enterprise facilitation project. He said 77 acres of area property were being certified as ready for commercial/industrial development. He said an over \$25,000 Revolving Loan Fund had been established and that a Loan Assistance for Micro-Producers enterprise program providing \$1-5,000 loans was available.

Mr. Zimmerman reviewed current building projects in the Oakridge Industrial Park. He said 500 miles of mountain biking trails had been identified through a mapping grant. He listed other recent and pending economic developments – book store, art gallery, mercantile store, Chevron station/store, Shell station rebuilt, new car lot, senior community center/housing, water system upgrade.

Mr. Tamulonis expressed appreciation for the presentations. He announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for February 14.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)

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