

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 – 12:00 NOON  
McMENAMIN’S GRAND LODGE – ALICE INKLEY ROOM**

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**ATTENDEES:** Jeff King, George Cress, Tim Budelman, Brian Wilbur, Kelly Marks, James Draznin, Howard Sullivan, Bruce McVean, Mark Frandsen, Mark Nakajima, Eduardo Corona, Jon-Michael Kowitz, John Hayes, Hope Kramer, Elena Uhing, Lois Hornberger, Don Jones.

**CITY STAFF:** Mayor Pete Truax

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Aubrey Lindstrom (Intern to Jeff King) Washington County Commissioner Bob Terry, Diane Dennis with Clean Water Services (CWS), Sheri Wantland with CWS, John Dummer with CWS, Eddie Rios with the Oregonian.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order @ 12:04 p.m. by EDC Chair Tim Budelman. At this time Tim asked everyone to please introduce themselves.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2014:**

Brian Wilbur moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mark Frandsen seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

**4. BUSINESS:**

**A. McMENAMIN’S HOST UPDATE:**

Hilary Olivos-Rood, the sales manager @ McMEnamin’s Grand Lodge, stopped by to give a brief update of happenings at the Grand Lodge. She mentioned that they have added an entirely new lunch menu, and they will be hosting a Wedding Expo which is open to the public on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Also, the Grand Lodge will be celebrating its 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with free live music & drink specials all day. Lastly, Hilary introduced their new chef, Andreas, to the group.

**B. FOREST GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**

A letter written by Howard Sullivan & Lauren Wilbur was distributed to the group.

**C. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Washington County Commissioner Bob Terry, along with three employees from Clean Water Services, Diane Dennis, John Dummer, & Sheri Wantland are the guest speakers for today’s meeting. Bob Terry said that he is proud and excited with all of the growth and changes happening in Forest Grove. He briefly mentioned a few projects which have recently been completed that involved cooperation between the City and Washington County. The projects he mentioned included road improvements and the addition of two crosswalks across busy roadways.

Next, Diane Dennis spoke about Clean Water Services and the four water treatment plants in our area which include Rock Creek, Durham, Hillsboro, and of course Fern Hill Wetlands in Forest Grove. Diane answered various questions that EDC members asked, and relayed very interesting information about the water treatment plants and what they do. She said that the county commissioners really challenge Clean Water Services to do smart business, emphasizing that their practices are always environmentally sound. She pointed out that water is going to be an economic driver in the very near future as we see our neighboring states of California and Nevada facing droughts of epic proportions.

John Dummer then explained several upgrades that have taken place at Fern Hill Wetlands in the past few years. Some of the most recent changes have been native plant restoration, the addition of restrooms and a picnic shelter, a water garden, a bridge, and a three acre treatment pond. He said that there are three main goals kept in mind as improvements are made, these goals are: the water treatment process, people, and the environment.

In the final portion of the presentation, Sheri Wantland outlined some of the economic impacts that have resulted from the upgrades to Fernhill Wetlands. She said that as a result of the improvements/upgrades, there has been an increase in ecotourism, media interest, research by scientists and educators, and special events arising such as the Birds & Brew Festival held each year. She noted that wildlife viewing and birding have become very lucrative businesses in the United States, and that in 2008 they brought in \$795,000.00 to Washington County alone.

**5. ADDITIONS / DELETIONS & STAFF SUMMARY**

Don Jones gave an update on the redevelopment and recommendations of the Times Litho Ad-Hoc Committee. He said that the land and building had been purchased in December of 2012, and since that time the committee has met several times in order to decide what the best use of the property should be. The committee’s recommendations are as follows: The project should stimulate the downtown, should be developed as a private / public partnership, should include a public amenity, should include market rate housing only, retail should be part of the mix, the developer chosen should be open to including a retail grocery store, and there should be an open attitude toward the advice of the developer chosen in order for them to determine the most suitable project for the site. Don then announced the next steps to be taken in the process which are:

- February 2014 – Develop RFI with Jerry Johnson
- Late February 2014 – Release RFI
- Late April 2014 – Deadline for RFI
- May 2014 – Reconvene Ad-Hoc Committee to give recommendations to City Council
- Summer 2014 – City negotiations with developer
- 2015 – Break ground

**6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Elena Uhing shared information on several different meetings that the City Council has participated in recently, including the Boards & Commissions Annual Dinner which highlights the yearly accomplishments of 11 commissions within the City. There were 75 attendees at the dinner this year, and the announcement of a new addition to the existing commissions was made. The new commission will be the Sustainability Commission. Elena also mentioned that the Annual Town Meeting was held @ the Community Auditorium on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. She said that approximately 75 citizens attended plus City staff.

**7. STAFF & BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:**

Eduardo Corona announced that Adelante Mujeres will be hosting an event called Sabor Color @ the Forest Grove Senior Center on Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. This event is open to the public, and admission price is \$1.00, children under 15 are free.

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Jon-Michael Kowitz shared with the group that Portland Community College Small Business Development Center will be conducting a workshop geared toward small businesses called Small Business Management for Retailers. Classes begin on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will be held @ the PCC SE Center in Portland.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:**

EDC Chair Tim Budelman announced that the next EDC Meeting will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ McMenemy’s Grand Lodge, in the Alice Inkley Room @ 12:00 noon.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

EDC Chair Tim Budelman adjourned the meeting @ 1:40 p.m.

Approved by the Forest Grove Economic Development Commission:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
EDC Chair