

Minutes
City of Brookings
Economic Development Committee (EDC)
Council Chambers 898 Elk Drive February 10, 2005 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair John Zia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Committee members present: Jeremy McVeety, David Freeman, Don Mitchell, Shelly Eaton, Frances Johns Kern, Peggy Goergen, Elizabeth Smith, Dorothy Garvin, Jay Patel, Kathy McCourt, John Zia and Toni Mefford. Linda Brown attended, representing the school district in Chris Nichols place.

Committee members absent: Rick Bishop and Chris Nichols

Staff in attendance were: Community Development Director Ed Wait, Senior Planner Dianne Snow and Administrative Secretary Linda Barker.

Mayor Pat Sherman attended as did five members of the public.

III. Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes

A. Minutes of January 13, 2005 meeting

Johns Kern moved, a second followed, and by voice vote the Committee approved the minutes for the meeting of January 13, 2005.

IV. Addition of items to agenda if needed

Mefford will bring a discussion item at the end of the meeting.

V. Scheduled Public Appearances

A. Leroy Blodgett, City Manager

Although Blodgett was scheduled to appear there was a switch made after the agenda was printed and Mayor Sherman attended the meeting and addressed the committee. She said she has been familiarizing herself with all City Commissions and Committees, reviewing the ordinances that regulate them and meeting with their members. She felt the direction given by the previous Council to the EDC was vague with no stated goals or ways to achieve them. Each Committee member then stated their feelings about the function of the EDC with a consensus being that the EDC has a valuable place as a forum for economic issues in the area. Several considered the EDC a "think tank" and because the Committee is open to the public and perhaps more approachable than the Council or City staff, they receive ideas from many sources.

Wait said he will follow the policy-makers decisions on staff time. Staff will continue to participate in EDC meetings but not the various subcommittees. Sherman stated that downtown revitalization is necessary and volunteered to work on the downtown subcommittee. There was further discussion on staff time and the goals of various subcommittees.

The annexation subcommittee felt their task was broader than just annexation and the word growth was added to their name. During the one meeting they held questions from

the public made them realize they should be looking into the whole area, north, south and east of Brookings, not just the Harbor area. Sherman said one of this subcommittee's goals could be to identify both benefits and drawbacks to annexation

Smith suggested utilizing high school students and/or other volunteers to operate the cameras at meetings broadcast live from the Council Chambers.

VI. Unscheduled Public Appearances

Don Nuss, 650 Mardon Court, said, as a citizen he is concerned that this committee could function as a political action committee which should not be funded with tax dollars. Chair Zia assured Nuss that the committee is not proposing or promoting annexation. Nuss commented that it doesn't take much to cross the line. And as long as individuals on all sides of an issue can address the committee the perception of the *Good Ol' Boy Network* can recede. He is willing to be part of the solution.

Nuss continued that he has a petition to repeal an ordinance passed in 1993 regarding the use of transient room tax for tourist promotion.

VII. Staff Reports/Updates/Information

A. *Dianne Snow, Senior Planner*

Snow reported repainting the welcome signs was a win-win solution. The signs were painted and area youth were involved in the project. Kristie Kleepsies, Leadership Class advisor, offered her group to participate in other similar projects. Snow said Mefford initiated the contact with the school.

Snow also reported that Coos County has approved three waiver requests prompted by Measure 37. Jackson County has five and Yamhill County has one. The state senate is trying to find a funding source to pay people rather than grant waivers for Measure 37 claims.

Staff is working on updates to the Land Development Code to eliminate conflicting standards and particularly working on the hillside standards. The target is to have a workable document when Measure 37 concerns are settled. Zia asked if the County had been included in the hillside standards update. Snow answered that the City and County were both commenting on these standards.

For February the Planning Commission had one partition and one small annexation which was postponed from last month.

B. *Ed Wait, Community Development Director*

Wait said the downtown subcommittee will move forward. ODOT will be bringing their recommendation for the Hwy 101 traffic solution and a decision will be made on the preferred alternative soon. Once that decision is reached we will know what the downtown will look like.

In answer to Freeman's question, Wait answered that Borax is moving forward. LUBA will hear the appeal on March 3 and it will be a few weeks before their decision. If the decision is favorable Borax will move along rather quickly. Goergen added there is another appeal process beyond LUBA. Wait agreed there were a lot of unresolved issues.

VIII. Sub-committee Reports

A. *Downtown Subcommittee*

1. *Welcome Signs*

Mefford thanked the students and Rick Bishop for work on the welcome sign. She said the subcommittee will be going forward on new welcome signs. This might take up to six months. Funding sources and where to place the signs must be determined.

B. *Annexation Subcommittee*

Freeman reported there was one meeting of this subcommittee. Some members of the public attended and brought with them good questions. It was decided the area to be studied should be larger than just Harbor. The group will be gathering information on past efforts on annexation. Although Freeman said the subcommittee has no definite direction they do not want to redo what has been done in the past. The EDC agreed the subcommittee's task should be broad to address lots of growth issues. No meeting date for the subcommittee was set. Nuss stated he would like to attend these meetings.

The EDC decided that the March meeting will have as scheduled appearances Grant Young, Curry County Planning Director, and Leroy Blodgett, City Manager. The April meeting will concentrate on downtown development.

C. *Healthcare Subcommittee*

The subcommittee postponed their meeting because of a public meeting on healthcare held at the Beachfront Best Western. Most of the subcommittee attended this meeting. Therefore they have not selected a Chair or set future meeting dates. Goergen volunteered to serve on this subcommittee. Linda Brown will get a copy of the League of Women Voters healthcare survey that was done about three years ago. It was decided the subcommittee would meet Tuesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

IX. *Old Business*

Mefford said she has been approached by many regarding the possible couplet and how it will affect the community, both residential and business. She suggested the EDC spearhead a special election on the couplet vs. Chetco Avenue rebuild issue. As ODOT is presenting more information to the community in the next month it was decided the issue would be discussed in March.

X. *New Business*

None

XI. *Work Items for next or future meetings*

Items discussed earlier in the meeting include for March: growth and annexation issues, transient room tax ordinance. Affordable housing, Highway 101 (Chetco Avenue) solutions and healthcare will also be discussed in future meetings.

XII. *Next Meeting Date*

The next meeting will be March 10, 2005.

XIII. *Summary of action items*

- Healthcare subcommittee will meet February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers
- Zia will seek to procure City Manager Blodgett to speak on growth issues at the next meeting.
- Downtown Subcommittee will meet February 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers

XIV. *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Barker".

Linda Barker
Administrative Secretary