

MINUTES
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
FACILITIES COMMITTEE
JULY 7, 1986

The District's Facilities Committee met on Monday, July 7, 1986, 7:30 a.m., at the Trawler Restaurant in downtown Eugene.

Present:

Board Members:	Janet Calvert Janice Eberly Gus Pusateri
Staff Members:	Phyllis Loobey Mark Pangborn Stefano Viggiano Shannon Evonuk, Recording Secretary
Consultant:	Eric Gunderson

Absent:

Chamber Representatives:	Bruce Hall Jim Ivory
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Janet Calvert brought the meeting to order, and asked for approval of the minutes of the May 20 and June 9 meetings. Janice Eberly moved to approve the minutes. Gus Pusateri, newly appointed member of the committee replacing Larry Parducci, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Phyllis Loobey, General Manager, spoke on the subject of communications strategy for the new facility. Dennis Strand, a new member of the LTD Board's Budget Committee, had talked with Ms. Loobey on this subject. After the story was published in the *Springfield News* on Senator Robert Packwood's announcement of the funding for the new LTD facility, Mr. Strand said he had received negative comments from community members who are confused or misinformed about the project. He thought it would be a good idea to increase the amount of information the District is providing to the community on the project. Ms. Loobey agreed that the District may want to keep the community updated on it. She suggested giving talks to the Chamber committees and to some service clubs.

Ms. Calvert suggested that an update could be sent to the press after the monthly Facilities Committee meetings. Ms. Loobey noted that the press would decide whether or not that was newsworthy, though. Stefano Viggiano, Facility Project Manager, pointed out that a summary of the Facilities Committee meetings has been included in the monthly Board packets, which are distributed to the press.

Mr. Pusateri wondered how much coverage the District will get once the construction phase begins. Mark Pangborn, Director of Administrative Services, said it will probably begin getting more once the annexation process begins. Ms. Loobey said the big issue is funding--the public will want to know what it is going to cost them.

Ms. Eberly wanted to know just how many people have approached Mr. Strand with their concerns. In her contacts with community members, negative comments have not been raised about the facility. She agreed with the idea of keeping the chambers of commerce up-to-date on the project. She also suggested a joint letter from Ms. Loobey and Ms. Calvert be sent to the major payroll taxpayers letting them know what is happening. She said a letter is more likely to catch someone's attention than in another forum, such as the District's Annual Report; that recommendation was agreed upon by the committee members. Mr. Viggiano suggested doing this prior to the annexation process, although it should contain an explanation of the entire project.

Ms. Calvert also suggested putting together a one-page insert in the *Register-Guard*. Ms. Loobey said this project actually may not stand out, as there will be many construction projects happening in this area during the same time period.

Ms. Eberly said the District should consider using the press as a source of public relations. She expressed confidence in the capabilities of the LTD Marketing staff to convey this project in a positive manner. She thought there was not a need to launch a "major campaign" about this to the community, adding that the public only needs to be informed at appropriate times. Ms. Calvert agreed in not overdoing the publicity on this, but that some information should be conveyed to the public soon.

Mr. Pusateri asked about the multiplier effect of the project, and how it would be affected if a contractor from out of the area is used. Mr. Viggiano replied that the District is hoping to retain a local contractor for the project, but that, in any case, most of the construction dollars would remain in the community.

Mr. Viggiano turned to the subject of the continued review of the predesign for the facility. In response to the discussion at the last committee meeting, Mr. Viggiano checked with LTD employees regarding the possible inclusion of an exercise room in the new facility. He said there is much employee support for the room, especially among the drivers. In fact, he said, representatives from the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) indicated the union may be willing to help pay for the equipment to be used in the room. Mr. Viggiano said the recently-constructed Oregon Research Institute, Spectra Physics, and the City of Eugene currently have exercise rooms in their facilities, and Lane County is putting one in its facility.

Mr. Viggiano reminded the members that, at the last committee meeting, Bruce Hall had recommended initially making the space into a conference room for Transportation, later changing it to an exercise room if local community opinion toward this type of room changed. Therefore, LTD staff are suggesting eliminating the exercise room from the predesign plan, but possibly converting the Transportation conference room into an exercise room in the future.

Ms. Eberly thought this approach was a good one. She still objected, however, to the fact that public agencies are providing these spaces--except when the employees help support the cost of them--when there are local facilities that provide this service at a reasonable cost.

Eric Gunderson, architect for the facility, discussed the current planned square footage of the facility, as compared with the original plan. He explained that the maintenance building is only being planned for a 10-year projected use. He went on to show predesign layouts of both the maintenance work areas and the administrative offices. The administrative offices shown were a mixture of both open and closed offices. They were shown to scale, but not in their final location. There was an explanation given of the location of the different work bays and areas of the maintenance building. Mr. Pusateri said he understood that work such as painting, welding, and fabrication to be performed outside of the District, due to the privatization regulations. Mr. Viggiano explained that a study was done that showed it was less expensive to have these areas of work performed by the District, but added that the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) had requested further documentation to support that assertion. This further analysis would be conducted as part of the value engineering study.

Ms. Calvert remarked that this is as much a learning process as an evaluation. She asked if the members had any comments on the predesign. Mr. Viggiano said the discussion on the design of the office spaces for administrative staff could wait until the next committee meeting, and that the members did not need to wait for this discussion to take place before approving the predesign. Ms. Eberly moved that the committee approve the predesign, with the change of the exercise room to a conference room, and to move the discussion of open versus closed offices to the next meeting of the committee. Mr. Pusateri seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Viggiano said the next meeting needed to be scheduled for the end of July in order to make a decision on the value engineer for the project. Interviews for the value engineer position will take place on July 22 and 24. It was decided that the date for the next meeting would be Tuesday, July 29, at 7:30 a.m., and it would be held at the LTD offices on 8th and Garfield.


Recording Secretary