

Marion County Economic Development Advisory Board
November 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
555 Court St NE, 5th Floor Salem, OR

Members Present: Bill Burich, Kevin Cameron, Bill Cummins, Chad Freeman, Lesa Goff, Bob Hill, Nate Levin, Allison McKenzie, Angie Morris, Evann Remington, and Renata Wakely.

Staff and Guests Present: Sarah Cavazos, Tamra Goettsch, Danielle Gonzalez, Mark Hunter, and Mary Stewart

Call to Order: 3:34pm

Agenda Item: Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Information/Discussion: Morris welcomed members to the meeting and asked for introductions. Morris noted that the Cherriots ballot for employer tax was rejected. Cameron noted that he had a conversation with the Salem Chamber and encouraged them to convene a group to identify more viable solutions. Remington stated that she is on the committee with the Salem Chamber and they have already pulled a group together and to look at options for more sustainable funding.

Action: None.

Agenda Item: October Minutes

Information/Discussion: The minutes were reviewed, no discussion was held.

Action: A motion was brought forth by Cummins to approve the October minutes; a second was made by Hill. The motion was voted for and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item: Membership

Information/Discussion: Morris shared that Frohnmayer submitted her resignation due to the demands of her business and feeling like she isn't able to contribute at the level she desires. Cameron noted that Jose Gonzales is an interested prospective replacement; he represents the Latino community, North County, and is in real estate. Freeman said he would endorse that nomination. Cameron noted that there is still another position available and potentially a third depending on the outcome of conversations with a current member. Remington asked how to nominate a candidate and shared that Ian who is in the food processing industry would be a great asset on the board and has expressed interest. Cummins confirmed he would be a great candidate. Cameron suggested he might fit within the position the group was looking to have an agriculture representative fill and asked that Remington connect with Cavazos to get contact information to begin discussions.

Action: None.

Follow Up: Cavazos to obtain contact information for prospective members.

Agenda Item: Community Projects Grant Updates

Information/Discussion: Cavazos updated the board that new budget information was discovered following the October EDAB meeting. The department made adjustments in the first supplemental budget process to align budgeted amounts with county policy due to an increase in actual versus projected revenue. Infrastructure Projects was moved from a subcategory of Community Projects, when the separate account was created the Community Projects fund was not reduced for the amount previously allocated to Infrastructure Projects which resulted in an additional \$65,000 available in the Community Projects budget. Based on this new information, the Board of Commissioners increased grant awards for City of Aumsville and City of Mt. Angel over the reduced awards recommended by EDAB. In addition, the Commissioners requested additional information to be collected to determine the need for the KМУZ project; the KМУZ grant request was deferred for consideration at a later date. At the management update Commissioner Carlson provided positive feedback on the process and the work done by EDAB in screening the applications and expressed appreciation for the efforts.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Grant Notification Policy

Information/Discussion: Cavazos referenced the Notice of Award policy in the agenda packet and asked board members to read the policy outside of the meeting. Cavazos shared that an applicant was given information on the status of their award by individuals on the review panel prior to the completion of review process and Board Order being issued. The intent of the policy is to clarify the notification process and remind grant reviewers that the process is confidential until official notification is given. All requests for information should be deferred to Community Services.

Action: None.

Agenda Item: Board Designated Allocation Reports

Information/Discussion: Oregon Gardens - Hunter provided a brief update on 1st quarter activities; the group is beginning a six month strategic planning process in which they will be looking for ways to improve the Oregon Gardens as a destination location in Oregon. They are looking at an expansion project which would add 80 acres to the garden and would include a 16 acre lake with lake side lodging and pub. In 2014 there were 125,000 visitors at the Gardens with approximately 55,000 overnight stays of at least one night. The Silverton Chamber of Commerce has estimated the financial impact to be \$7.5-\$8 million annually. Christmas in the Gardens will be starting within a few weeks, everyone is encouraged to visit the website for information and invited to come enjoy the event.

Action: None

Agenda Item: Grant and Loan Ad Hoc Committee

Information/Discussion: Hill shared that there has been discussion over the past few months on establishing a subcommittee to review the existing grant program and explore possibilities of adding a loan program. Chad, Evann and AJ have agreed to participate in the group. Cavazos referenced the handout and shared that this group review would be done in two parts, the first would be to explore what is currently available, where there are opportunities to fill unmet needs, and to obtain more information on the feasibility of establishing a loan program. The group will consider a variety of areas in phase one which may include items listed on the handout. The second phase would be to drill down into the specifics of the policy, practice, budget, and marketing of the programs. For this meeting's purposes we need to get input from the group that there is a desire to explore both grants and loans. Discussion was held and the group consensus was to obtain information on both grants and loans.

Action: None

Follow Up: Cavazos to work with Hill on outlining the committee timeline, and survey the members for available meeting dates.

Agenda Item: Youth Workforce Discussion

Information/Discussion: Hill noted that EDAB heard from a panel of presenters at the September meeting on the topic of Youth Workforce Development and solicited comments and feedback from the group on the presentations and next steps. It was shared that there seemed to be a lack of clarity on where the McMinnville Works program would be based if it were to be implemented in Marion County. There was agreement among the group that the program would be beneficial if a clear strategy for implementation could be identified. A suggestion was given that it might be a good fit with the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) given their focus on mentorship; it was noted that CTEC has an employee at the Salem Chamber and it may be good to start the conversation with them. Other comments were made about the efforts in rural schools and the desire to explore if the program may be a good overlay with their work as the districts begin to build their programs.

Action: None

Follow Up: Follow up with Salem Chamber to explore fit and interest, if that is not a fit discuss with CTEC.

Meeting adjourned: 5:10 pm

EDAB Approval of Minutes: