

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
FEBRUARY 26, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lon Kellstrom Mayor
Bill Merrill Councilor President
Sharlene Weed Councilor
Pat Thompson Councilor
Jerry Bogart Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Eileen Stein City Manager
Lisa Young Finance Director
Brad Grimm Public Works Director
Eric Porter Comm. Dev. Director
Kathy Nelson City Recorder

GUESTS:

Roger Lee Executive Director, Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO)
Eric Strobel Business Development Manager, EDCO

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kellstrom at 6:30 p.m.

A. EDCO Membership

Manager Stein introduced Roger Lee and Eric Strobel from Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) and stated the workshop was to give the Council an opportunity to contemplate at what level of membership it would like to support EDCO.

Mr. Lee stated the amount of dues paid by the City is a voluntary amount. He stated that numerous cities, counties, school districts and colleges do contribute at a higher rate than Sisters. He stated that EDCO has dedicated time to the Sisters community and Chamber of Commerce. **Mr. Strobel** stated EDCO is interested in the long term look in the region and is here to support the City in whatever direction it chooses.

Councilor Thompson asked if that includes supporting industries besides manufacturing such as tourist related retailers. **Mr. Strobel** stated it is somewhat difficult as enterprise zones are geared towards the traded sector such as the manufacturing and hi-tech industries. **Manager Stein** reminded the Council that the economic development program is targeted to specific sectors already identified by the Strategic Economic Action Plan. She stated the creation of the urban renewal district already provides a mechanism to benefit retailers and tourism related industries and includes other types of financial incentives. She stated the revamping of the Cascade Avenue streetscape and loans to businesses for facade upgrades from urban renewal funds will help to generate retail activity.

Councilor Merrill asked to see examples of a Central Oregon profile, manufacturing and technology directory and factbook and **Mr. Lee** stated he could provide copies of those items for review for the Council to see. He added there is not a large discernable difference in the level of service provided by EDCO with regard to the membership level and the City can maintain its present level of membership and purchase the items Councilor Merrill asked about. He stated that

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EDCO can create a fact book specific to Sisters in both a handout and electronic form. **Mr. Strobel** stated a relocation packet that has been discussed previously will provide even more information than a City profile handout and EDCO will provide the statistical information needed.

Mayor Kellstrom asked about membership in EDCO. **Mr. Lee** stated that EDCO has approximately 300 members with a good record of retention of its members. He stated that approximately 40% of members are public entities and 60% are private companies with all sectors of the economy represented. **Mayor Kellstrom** asked for examples of private companies that participate at the platinum and gold level of membership. **Mr. Lee** stated that Bend Broadband, Pacific Power, Central Electric Cooperative, Cascade Campus of Oregon State University, and Central Oregon Community College are examples of platinum members. He stated that Pahlisch Homes, Brooks Resources, Western Communication and GL Suite have gold membership status. He added that information on all of EDCO's members is broken out on the EDCO website. He provided examples of what level of membership other cities have contributed.

- Bend - \$65,000
- Redmond - \$80,000
- Prineville - \$20,000
- Madras - \$7,500
- Metolius- \$2,000

Mr. Lee added that most of the funds from the other cities are for supporting their local EDCO office.

Mayor Kellstrom asked about EDCO's business retention efforts. **Mr. Strobel** stated that retention is key to improvement and gave examples of Sisters businesses he often checks in with on a regular basis to offer support. **Mr. Lee** added that 50% of EDCO's time is spent on business development.

Councilor Weed asked for some history on the level of membership that Sisters has supported in the past. **Manager Stein** stated that Sisters first began by contributing \$250 to EDCO around 2002 and the membership level has increased over time to the current \$740 contribution. She stated that EDCO has provided a lot of support for the community over the years. She stated if an enterprise zone is established the management of that zone by EDCO will be of huge benefit to the City as it entails a great deal of work.

Manager Stein reminded the Council of EDCO's upcoming annual luncheon and **Mayor Kellstrom** encouraged Councilors to attend. **Mr. Lee** stated the speaker will be an entertaining economist who will speak on preparing for the future.

Manager Stein stated if there is a desire by the Council to adjust EDCO's membership dues for FY 08-09 the item is on that evening's regular meeting agenda. She stated that any adjustment the Council seeks for FY 09-10 will be worked into the new budget. **Councilor Merrill** stated he felt the item should be pulled from the agenda to allow further discussion. **Councilor Weed** stated

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she would not be attending the regular meeting and felt the Council should wait for any adjustment until the FY 09-10 budget cycle.

Councilor Merrill asked what types of services the City would receive for a platinum membership. **Mr. Strobel** stated membership at that level provides an automatic seat on the EDCO Board of Directors which is full of industry leaders with a great deal of collective knowledge. He stated membership at the platinum level also says that Sisters is serious about economic development.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

Lon Kellstrom, Mayor