

JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL/DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMISSION  
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE  
APRIL 09, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chris Frye            Mayor  
David Asson        Councilor  
Wendy Holzman    Councilor  
Nancy Connolly    Councilor

**ABSENT:**

McKibben Womack    Council President

**DESCHUTES COUNTY:**

Alan Unger            Commissioner  
Tony DeBone        Commissioner  
Tammy Baney        Commissioner  
Tom Anderson        County Administrator  
Anna Johnson        Public Communication Coordinator

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Andrew Gorayeb    City Manager  
Patrick Davenport    CDD Director  
Lynne Fujita-Conrads    Finance Officer  
Paul Bertagna        PW Director  
Kathy Nelson        City Recorder

**GUESTS:**

Roger Lee            EDCO Exec. Director  
Capi Foote-Lewis    Sisters Econ Dev Mgr

1. Quarterly Meeting with Deschutes County Commissioners

*A. Welcome and Introduction*

The joint meeting of the Sisters City Council and Deschutes County Commissioners was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Mayor Frye and Commissioner Unger. Introductions were made and **Mayor Frye** welcomed County staff and visitors.

*B. Sisters Economic Development Manager Sustainability Plan and Funding*

**Economic Development of Central Oregon (EDCO) Executive Director Roger Lee** began with a Powerpoint presentation to provide an overview of the economic development program in Sisters as well as in the region. He explained the program in Sisters was based on the same concept used in Redmond, Prineville and Madras with efforts focused on traded-sector business development. **Sisters Economic Development Manager Caprielle Foote-Lewis** provided a summary of the expectation for the program in Sisters and provided a progress report on those expectation.

**Commissioner Unger** noted Sisters was a partner of the Greater Redmond Enterprise Zone and questioned if any business had taken advantage of those incentives yet. **Ms. Foote-Lewis** replied five companies had taken advantage of the enterprise zone incentives and she was expecting another three to participate within the next year.

**Mayor Frye** stated the City had recently taken steps to promote economic development in Sisters by expanding Ms. Foote-Lewis' position to full time, introducing a forgivable loan program and would soon be investing additional funds in the Chamber of Commerce by raising the transient room tax percentage paid to the Chamber to 50% for marketing and tourism needs. He added transient room occupancy was also on the rise so there was more revenue.

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**Commissioner Unger** noted in most communities EDCO only handled traded-sector and noted allowing Ms. Foote-Lewis to participate with commercial businesses was of great benefit. **Mayor Frye** voiced thanks to Deschutes County for its continued financial support of the economic development program in Sisters and stated he hoped the City would continue to receive that support. **Deschutes County Administrator Tom Anderson** stated funding for the program came from the lottery allocations Deschutes County received from the state and he was not expecting any additional funds and might even receive less than in previous years. He reported EDCO had not submitted a funding request to Deschutes County yet and the Commissioner would be presented with options during its budget session which should be completed by the end of May. **Commissioner Baney** advised the County was only able to commit funding for the program on a year to year basis.

C. Sisters Economic Vitality Summit

**Ms. Foote-Lewis** distributed a handout on the upcoming May 9<sup>th</sup> economic vitality summit which would focus on building community. She invited everyone to attend.

D. Deschutes County Centennial Celebration

**Commissioner DeBone** stated November 2016 would be the centennial for Deschutes County. **Deschutes County Public Information Officer Anna Johnson** announced a committee had been created with members representing the entire county. She stated events being considered included historical presentations at McMenamins Pub, a progressive historical theatrical production at Deschutes County Historical Museum, a photo/essay contest for youth and some type of participation at a Bend Elks ballgame. **Commissioner DeBone** stated he hoped to bring people together to learn the history of Deschutes County.

E. Schedule Future Meetings

The **Council** and **Commission** members discussed future meetings and determined both evening and morning meetings were acceptable and should be scheduled according to the availability of participants.

F. Other Business

**Mayor Frye** stated it was his understanding the County was receiving some additional public safety funding from the state and requested help to offset the cost of some additional traffic feedback signs for Sisters. The **Commissioners** suggested sending in a formal request as an official decision had not been made the designation of the funds.

**Commissioner Unger** stated he wanted to update the Council on the status of the Black Butte Ranch to Sisters trail. He stated there had been local discussions and he had met with Oregon Solutions. He stated the goal was to bring the three communities of Black Butte Ranch, Tollgate and Sisters together to find a solution.

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G. Adjourn Joint Meeting

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:01

2. Other Business

Due to lack of time, there was no Other Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01p.m.

  
Kathy Nelson, City Recorder

  
Chris Frye, Mayor