

# **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY**

**December 6, 2005**

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the City of Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency, held immediately following the City Council meeting held at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon.

## **Those Attending**

Those present were Chair Kevin Stufflebean and Board Members Joe Benetti, Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Jeff McKeown, and John Muenchrath. Board Member Cindi Miller was absent due to another commitment. Staff present were City Manager Scott McClure, City Attorney Nate McClintock, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, Community Services Director Jim Hossley, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Capt. Rodger Craddock, and Capt. Gary McCullough.

## **Approval of the minutes of June 21, 2005 and November 15, 2005**

Board Member Gould moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2005 and November 15, 2005 as presented. Board Member Eck seconded the motion which passed with Chair Stufflebean and all Board Members present voting aye.

## **Discussed prior to wireless connect - Consideration of Oregon Heritage Grant Request**

Anne Donnelly, Director of the Historic Museum, reported the museum board is requesting the City of Coos Bay participate in a grant from Oregon Heritage. The City's contribution would be \$2,000 in funds and \$300 in city services. Ms. Donnelly commented the grant will be used to pull together information about Front Street, and the development of the image library will be a base for future grant requests. Board Member McKeown moved to approve expenditure of \$2,000 for the grant and \$300 in in-kind service. Board Member Muenchrath seconded the motion which passed with all board members present voting aye.

## **Presentation by Karl Kennedy on Wireless Internet Connectivity**

Karl Kennedy, President of ORCA Communications, reported his company is an internet provider and also does wireless solutions known as wifi. He explained wifi is flexible, affordable, and easy to use. ORCA recently did a project for the Port of Coos Bay in Charleston in the basin, commercial docks and RV park. Mr. Kennedy reviewed the proposal for the downtown area which would be a meshed network and could be done in phases. The equipment would cost \$3,670 with a \$300 per month subscription fee, and \$2500 for installation. Board members discussed the use of urban renewal funds purchase the equipment and for installation of the equipment.

Chair Stufflebean asked what benefits wifi would provide for the city and residents in that area. Mr. Kennedy commented the connectivity would be for visitors and is a browsing capability. He explained the service is unsecured and is not recommended for personal and business uses. Board Member Muenchrath commented on the use of the splash page to provide information about the community and could be modified to include a disclaimer. He further commented that many travelers look for communities providing free internet service, and this service could be used by the City for promotional and marketing benefits.

Board Member McKeown inquired about the use of urban renewal funds for the project. City Attorney McClintock reported the funds could be used for purchasing and installation of the equipment. Board Member Benetti noted the total cost would be \$18,000 over five years. Board Member Muenchrath suggested beginning with Phase I and talk with downtown businesses about the project; then, after a year, visit with them again and ask if wifi changed the amount of traffic. If there was an increase, proceed with Phase II. Board member Muenchrath commented there has been a lot of citizen support for the project. Mr. Kennedy discussed reception limitations, such as no reception through cinderblock or heavy steel. Board member MeKeown commented there should be service withn the buildings and the board members discussed setting up tests for service availability. Board Member McKeown suggested Mr. Kennedy work the city manager on the proposal.

### **Public Comments**

John Johnson, 1920 Lombard, North Bend, commented a lot of people in the county are very interested in keeping the Egyptian Theatre open as a theater and that people are willing to invest in the theater for performing arts.

### **Executive Session**

Board Member Eck moved to go into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (e) for the purpose of discussing real property transactions. Board Member McKeown seconded the motion which passed with all board members present voting aye.

The Agency reconvened into regular session.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Agency, Chair Stufflebean adjourned the meeting.

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Kevin Stufflebean, Chair

ATTEST:

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John Muenchrath, Secretary