

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

March 4, 2008

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 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, County, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Chair Jon Eck and Board Members Michele Burnette, Mark Daily, Stephanie Kramer, Jeff McKeown, Gene Melton and John Muenchrath.

Staff present were City Manager Chuck Freeman, City Attorney Nate McClintock, City Clerk Vicki English, Finance Director Janell Howard, Public Works and Development Director Jim Hossley, Assistant City Manager Joyce Jansen, Library Director Carol Ventgen, Police Chief Eura Washburn and Battalion Chief Howard Owens.

Approval of the Minutes of February 5, 2008

Board Member Burnette moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008 as presented. Board Member Kramer seconded the motion which passed with Chair Eck and Board Members Burnette, Daily, Kramer, McKeown, Melton, and Muenchrath voting aye.

Presentation on the Assessment of the Downtown and Empire Districts by Vicki Dugger, Director of the Oregon Downtown Development Association

Vicki Dugger, Director of the Oregon Downtown Development Association, presented a power point presentation on the assessment of the Downtown and Empire Districts. Ms. Dugger gave an overview of the information that was collected during the assessment of both districts. Ms. Dugger briefly reviewed the priorities that she felt were critical to revitalizing the two districts. In summary, Ms. Dugger stated the priorities that should be strongly considered are: management, code updates, business development, redevelopment opportunities, parking and traffic flow. She also commented that we have great specialty business clusters but we need to work aggressively to bring new business to both the Downtown and Empire Districts to build on these clusters. Areas in which Ms. Dugger made suggestions on business development were retention, expansion, recruitment and cohesive operating hours. Some issues specific to the Downtown District that Ms. Dugger talked about were improving the City's web site to include better information on programs, parking, points of interest, and the possibility of streamlining the permit process. The other issues concerning the Downtown District that Ms. Dugger reported were how confusing it was to navigate in the downtown area, the suggestion that we should open up Central Avenue with two way traffic and the statement that the Ped Way needed improving to make it more inviting. The specific issues that need to be addressed in the Empire District are the need to fight crime, the bad image that the community has, and for pedestrian safety, specifically the need to have a pedestrian activated signal at the corner of Camman and Newmark. Ms. Dugger also stated that the development of Hollering Point should be a high priority. In closing Ms. Dugger stated that we are headed in the right direction and the next steps that we need to do are to focus, to follow through, and to put a management framework

place. Board Member McKeown moved that we adopt the assessment, plans and recommendations that were presented by the Oregon Downtown Development Association. Board Member Daily seconded the motion which passed with Chair Eck and Board Members Burnette, Daily, Kramer, McKeown, Melton and Muenchrath voting aye. Board Member McKeown noted that we were adopting the process and plan, not the specific details.

Public Comments

Joanie Johnson of Sincerely Yours Antique Mall expressed how exciting it is that we are going forward with a plan for the Downtown District. Ms. Johnson also stated that she has a concern with the System Development Charges that we have in place. She feels that this would prohibit any new business from coming into the area. Other suggestions that Ms. Johnson noted were opening up Central Avenue to get the traffic going through the downtown and moving the Firefighters Memorial to the Ped Way.

Gary Rifkin spoke about his new web site, newcoosbay.com, that will be up and running March 7, 2008. Mr. Rifkin said that his web site will feature ideas on how to reroute Central Avenue to run underneath City Hall and moving the Firefighters Memorial to the Ped Way.

Adjourn

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

Jon Eck, Chair

Attest:

Mark Daily, Secretary