



Oak Grove Community Council

Regular Council Business Meeting February 26, 2020 Minutes

What: Regular Council Business Meeting - Oak Grove Community Council
When: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.
Where: Performing Arts Center at Rose Villa - 13505 SE River Road, Oak Grove

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 23

Tom Andrews, Mary Bailey, Bob Bohannon, Carol Bosworth, Patt Callender, Kathleen Chapman, Valerie Chapman, Jane Civiletti, Sue Conachan, Dave Dobak, Jan Dobak, Gene Fifield, Thelma Haggemiller, Joan Hamilton, Jan Lindstrom Valerio, Jim Meyer, Gwion Miller, Linda Newbloom, Fred Sawyer, Al Scott, Abby Smith, Fred Swingle, Greg Wenneson

NON-VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 7

Brian Baker, Margaret Bell, Pam Horan, David Keifer, Mark Knudsen, Rich Nepon, Wendy Rader

GUESTS / VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE: 2

Martin Meyers, Brian Stewart

7:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Officer reports:

- January 22 meeting minutes and membership update
Secretary Jan Lindstrom asked if there were any changes or additions to the January 22 meeting minutes, aside from those received via email. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed.
- Treasurer Jane Civiletti welcomed new people and old-timers. She explained that some people may remember that the OGCC used to provide donations with some of its treasury funds, usually at the holidays, to local community groups. The board has been discussing reviving this practice. We have not made any donations in close to five years and we believe our current funds are sizable enough that we could make a donation to a small organization, a non-profit, in this

community. In 2012, we made a \$500 donation to Backpack Buddies, which was divided among four different schools. Since then, there has been very little in the way of donations.

- Comments from the audience:
Joan Hamilton suggested donating money to Friends of Oak Lodge Public Library, since we're going to be getting a sizable new library for our community and need to supplement funds provided by the county.
- Fred Sawyer suggested Historic Downtown Oak Grove (HDOG) and CERT. He said it would be good to figure out which organizations align with our mission, so would be a good fit.
- Annette thought we could solicit possibilities at a future OGCC meeting and ask potential organizations to submit a request for funding for a specific thing. She also mentioned the community projects suggested by the community in various surveys. She also wondered if everyone would be comfortable giving a donation to organizations that charge dues or have paying members.
- Jane said it might be better to hold off voting on the donation at this time, since we need to leave time for Inclusive Public Engagement. She announced that our current checking account balance was \$2288.88 in January. We received cash donations at the last meeting of \$27.00, bringing the new balance to \$2315.88.

7:15 p.m. Program

Clackamas Fire District Update – *Brian Stewart, Division Chief*

- Clackamas Fire Division Chief Brian Stewart announced that they recently welcomed seven new entry-level firefighters to Clackamas Fire District #1, all graduates from the academy who will complete a 12-weeks-long firefighting course by mid-April. They've completed 18 months of contract service with the city of Estacada and it's going well so far. They are working on in-house improvements to the station, such as a kitchen and dorm rooms, because it wasn't set up for 24-7 working service.
- February is heart month. A good way to support the community is by becoming heart safe and learning CPR. If you download the Pulse Point app to your phone, it will tell you when somebody nearby is having a heart attack. Then when someone calls 911 to report the

heart attack, it will send that information to first responders and to people with the Pulse Point app. This saves time getting life-saving CPR going while first responders are on the way.

- There are opportunities for residents to volunteer with Clackamas Fire, such as during Christmastime when they have Operation Santa Claus and as CERT (Clackamas Emergency Response Team) volunteers.
- Audience question: CERT asks for access to a person's financial records before approving them for volunteer work. Do you know why that is?

Brian explained that they need to make sure you're not in a financial situation where you would take advantage of the situation.

- Audience question: Do the CPR classes available for volunteers include pediatric CPR and AED operation?

Answer: Yes.

Inclusive Public Engagement - *Valerie Chapman, OGCC Vice Chair*

Table facilitators: Jane Civiletti, Jason Schrepel, Jim Martin, Greg Wenneson

The purpose of this exercise was to invite members of the community to suggest ways in which we can include more people in our meetings. We also want to ensure our meetings are welcoming to anyone who attends.

- Valerie opened the Inclusive Public Engagement exercise by asking audience members to break into smaller groups at tables. Board members spread out at tables to act as facilitators.

Valerie explained that although the Oak Grove Community Council's service area encompasses about 30,000 people, less than 100 attend our monthly meetings, and most appear to be from the area between McLoughlin and River Road. We would like to have better representation throughout the district. She invited everyone to discuss ideas we could implement to let more residents know about the meetings and make them more appealing and/or accessible.

- We broke into small groups at six tables and discussed the following questions:
 - **#1** What started your participation in the Oak Grove Community Council? What keeps you coming?

- **#2** What do you enjoy most about the Oak Grove community? What would you like to change?
- **#3** There are over 30,000 people in the Oak Grove Community Council area. Do you believe that the OGCC is representative of these people? If yes, please give an example. If no, please explain.
- **#4** What did you hear in your conversations about representation? How can we improve representation?
- **#4b** Do you think that simplifying the process to become a voting member, such as reducing the required meeting attendance before voting from 5 meetings to 2 meetings, would encourage participation? Why? Why not?
- **Jason Schreppel** suggested we look at recent demographics to better understand our area. He also suggested taking a meeting to the other side of town, where we don't get a lot of attendance.
- **Jim Meyer** suggested we look for alternate ways of letting people know about the community council, about our website, our Facebook page, and how to sign up to receive our announcements.
- **Valerie** noted that we reach homeowners, but how do we reach renters and mobile home park residents? Parents with young children? Evening meetings work for us, but perhaps a Saturday meeting on occasion to accommodate people who can't attend at night?
- **Jane** suggested we look for additional opportunities to distribute our meeting notices, such as newspapers or online forums.
- Combined results of audience feedback will be presented at the next general meeting.

Land Use Application Review Team (LUART):

- *Updates on Long Range Planning projects*
- No land use applications to discuss tonight

8:30 p.m. Committee updates:

- **Historic Downtown Oak Grove (HDOG)** – Annette Guarriello
Annette announced that they received good responses on the HDOG Community Survey. Residents expressed appreciation for some of the services in Oak Grove, like the Fire Department. Young people have been going to the Oak Lodge Water board to present concerns,

because they didn't know where else to take them. A directory listing local services could be helpful. It could also have a place to post community meetings. They learned the meeting signs are important. We might want to look at where the signs are and how we decide that.

We have new members within the last year. Perhaps we can expand on that by expanding our signs further out in the community.

Annette explained that HDOG is made up of a group of volunteers who work with America's Main Street program, which helps bring main streets up to par and improve area businesses. They were asked by Main Street advisors affiliated with the county to try and identify 12 priorities that the community would like to see happen. They are mostly focused on trying to get grants for things like bicycle racks, and attracting visitors to the downtown historic area through community events, like the Trolley Trail Festival. HDOG is a 501c3 non-profit and money raised goes back into the community. Three businesses have been able to get grants for building projects over the last three years. There are only five volunteers on the board. The Trolley Trail Festival might not happen this summer because the same people have been volunteering for years and are getting burned out. They've also been working to put trees or landscaping on Arista along the fence line of the school, which is challenging because the county does not have a water line running along that fence.

Survey Highlights: Between July-Sept. last year, 212 surveys were distributed; 176 people responded, an 86% response rate. Top community projects mentioned were landscaping, benches, murals – general aesthetic improvements; Top capital projects included a community park, a walking path to the river along Oak Grove Blvd., lighting / solar lamp posts. The back half of New Urban HS could be a community park. The survey validated that goal.

- **Park Avenue Community Project - Valerie Chapman**

The project includes a half-mile radius around the Tri-Met station. It's long been a goal to develop the area around the light rail station. A Park Ave. Citizens Advisory Committee is working to come up with

community values and guidelines to help us create zoning and design standard changes that will affect the area on McLoughlin Blvd. There was a public workshop last Saturday. Thelma is the only one in the audience who attended (besides Valerie). The second one will be April 2nd at the Elks Lodge. Community input is really important to this whole process. The third workshop will be Sat., May 16th at Rose Villa. We're looking for input on design and zoning standards. People have ideas about housing, restaurants; that will not be the outcome of this particular advisory committee; we're laying the groundwork so those types of projects have an opportunity to come in, taking a first look at zoning and design standards to decide what the community wants; it's a very specific grant for community engagement. Prior to this, County staff, in cooperation with the consulting team, came up with a plan of their own and tried to lay it on top of the community and that was thoroughly rejected by the community, so it's important to have input. We're especially looking for input from residents who live, work or own land within a half-mile radius around Park Ave.

- **MAP-IT** – Joseph Edge

MAP-IT (the McLoughlin Area Plan Implementation Team) is looking at the plan done 10 years ago. Urban Renewal dollars were not obtained when the original plan was devised; projects have been stalled; we're looking at a re-evaluation of what the priorities are and how we can achieve them. The McLoughlin Area Plan is the economic engine of this area and it needs some re-tooling. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) gave a report. We have 53 car lots down McLoughlin Blvd. A lot of them involve large tracks of land that perhaps could be used in a different way – how do we do that? People talk about people without homes, the high cost of housing, where could we build housing, create housing in some more dense areas down McLoughlin?

At the EDC meeting this morning, one of the pieces we keep hearing is that the County doesn't have a lot of money. There's frustration with people wanting services, not getting a response in a timely fashion; they're not going to fill positions that have been vacated because of retirements or job departure; they don't want to do layoffs, so they're

handling it through attrition, but somebody has to take up slack. When we're looking for things from the County, we have to realize the staff is overworked.

Metro is pretty clear about not wanting to spend money to build any more roads. There's tension in Clackamas County because Multnomah County is pretty well developed with their roads and highways, Clackamas County would really like to attract businesses, build some more roads, but they're not interested in spending money in that way; For every dollar we pay in property taxes, the County receives 18.5 cents; 50 percent of that goes to the Sheriff and public safety. The budget is an issue and we're going to keep hearing about that. We also have to talk about the Coronavirus showing up in our area. The County Health Dept. is already out of masks; face masks are not designed to keep you from getting the virus as much as not touching your face. We're being told to wash hands more and be very careful. As we get more information, we'll let people know what we know.

- Martin Meyers, Representative to C4 – Clackamas County C4 is a coordinating committee made up of reps from cities and CPOs. Martin Meyers has been chosen to represent CPOs at C4.

Martin said he's been working on improved communication between CPOs and the County at C4. There are 12 different mayors and the County. The group is kind of quiet. They don't do a lot, but there's all kinds of need. He suggested if Oak Grove is interested, we can communicate with him regarding issues of importance to us. The C4 agenda comes out the first Thursday of every month. Later in the month, there's an agenda packet. He offered to C4 about the issues affecting Oak Grove, such as the proposed pedestrian bridge. He added that at the first meeting he attended two years ago, the mayor of Wilsonville wanted to eliminate the CPO seat. We fought for years to get that one seat. There is a voice. And even though Martin joked that he's "not much of a politician," he said he was a lawyer, is capable of advocating, and willing to take on that role.

8:40 Announcements:

- Clackamas County Advisory Boards and Commissions (ABCs) - Open Recruitments:

- Design Review
- Emergency Medical Services Council – nine vacancies – deadline March 20
- Hospital Facility Authority of Clackamas County Board – deadline tomorrow
- OSU Extension & 4-H Service District
- Planning Commission
- Veterans Advisory Council – deadline March 19
- **New Urban High School construction** – Thelma Haggenmiller
New Urban HS is going to be taken down and re-built. Local resident Pam Martin has taken it upon herself to lead a group interested in having an event to tour the school and share memories prior to the tear-down. They met here last month. Info will be in the Citizens Informed & Aware (CIA) newsletter so former students can go to this event and have a last chance to walk to halls as they knew them. No date yet.
- **CIA Candidates Forum** – Thelma Haggenmiller
March 10th is the candidate filing deadline for the May primary. On April 8th, in this room, there will be a CIA candidates' forum for those people who want to know more about candidates and issues pertinent to our area. If you are not on the mailing list, please email Thelma at thelma.haggenmiller@outlook.com and request to be added.

8:45 Schedule review:

- Future OGCC Meetings - 7 pm at Rose Villa - Performing Arts Center:
Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, Jun 24, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28
- Future OGCC Board Meetings - 6:45 pm at Oak Lodge Fire Station:
Mar 5 (last meeting to be held on the first Thursday), Apr 6,
May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5*
*now meeting on first Monday

8:50 Adjourn