



Oak Grove Community Council

Regular Council Business Meeting April 22, 2020 Minutes

Who: Oak Grove Community Council
What: Regular Council Business Meeting
When: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.
Where: Zoom online meeting platform

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 29

Wallace Brown, Susan Cassuto, Valerie Chapman, Jane Civiletti, Sue Conachan, Jeanine Defeyler, Dave Dobak, Jan Dobak, Joseph Edge, Will Farley, Gene Fifield, Ginger Fink, Dave Gray, Thelma Haggemiller, Joan Hamilton, Eleanore Hunter, Chips Janger, James Troy Kerth, Mark Knudson, Jan Lindstrom, Jim Meyer, Gwion Miller, Linda Newbloom, Paul Savas, Fred Sawyer, Fred Swingle, Baldwin van der Bijl, Marilyn Wall, Greg Wenneson

NON-VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 9

Wesley Brown, Donna Dreis, Diane Gravelle, Tom Gravelle, Susan Keil, Tyler King, Susan Knudson, Rich Nepon, Ron Warnecke

GUESTS / VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE: 4

Mark Knudson, Sue Peel, Martha Schrader, Katie Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 6

Valerie Chapman, Jane Civiletti, Joseph Edge, Jan Lindstrom, Jim Meyer, Greg Wenneson

APOLOGIES: Jason Schreppel

7:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Officer reports:

- February 26 meeting minutes – Secretary Jan Lindstrom announced that February meeting minutes will be sent out via email. There are no March minutes, since the meeting was cancelled.
- Treasurer's update + Annual Charitable Contribution

Treasurer Jane Civiletti announced our checking account balance from February was \$2315.88. Since there was no March meeting, there were no donations and no expenditures. The balance remains \$2315.88.

7:15 Program:

Community check-in during the Coronavirus:

Dick Nepon said the Coronavirus wasn't sent by God. It's part of nature. People doing all the good things and helping their neighbors -- that was sent by God.

Joseph Edge has a co-worker who came down with COVID-19. It's impactful when it's someone you know first-hand and see every day. It's close quarters in an office space.

Eleanore Hunter's best friend from before kindergarten had in-laws who passed away within two days of each other. Due to the virus, they haven't been able to see them, claim their bodies or anything. Eleanore added that she was thrilled to hear so many people on Zoom tonight from the east side of McLoughlin Blvd.

OLWSD board members Mark Knudson and Sue Peel joined the call. Mark said our water, sewer and stormwater services continue to work just fine. The unsung heroes are those working every day in water supply, wastewater treatment and managing the system. They had to change how they handle staffing because of COVID-19. Some people are working from home. They're scheduling split shifts. It becomes challenging with pipeline or leak repairs, but they're figuring out how to make that happen safely. They're doing things like cleaning and disinfecting, observing precautions. One interesting challenge is the office being closed to the public. We have had numerous Zoom meetings, which are proving to be successful.

OLWSD received confirmation through one of the governor's executive orders that receiving written comments will suffice for public input. Mark said residents should feel free to call or email the office. They're very responsive. Regarding water safety, Mark said our water supply comes from the Clackamas River and folks live upstream. The good news is that the virus itself is very easily disinfected. Through normal water treatment processes, it is either removed and/or inactivated. Our water continues to be safe to drink.

Mark Knudson reminded us that "flushables" are not flushable. The wipes and "flushable" material sold in stores, that stuff doesn't break down. It becomes really problematic. It plugs up pump stations. They have staff who are literally risking their exposure in order to unplug sewage pumps and clean treatment plants. That increases costs and hazards, so please don't flush them. Dispose of them in the trash.

He added that although it's easily disinfected, in communities with high infection rates, there are Coronavirus particles found in the wastewater stream. They can actually test the wastewater stream and find out if there are infected individuals. Observing personal protective equipment (PPE) is very important to reducing the spread.

OLWSD is moving forward with its budget process. If you want to go online and check out the budget, it will be available by next week. They have a rate relief program. They've always had a low-income program. Obviously, water is a key service. They're not shutting people off for non-payment.

Sue Peel thanked Mark for doing a great job, adding "you'd think he's been there for a number of years." In addition to sending a letter or email, Sue said residents can get on OLWSD Zoom meetings. Call the district or get on the website to find the meeting link. A few citizens joined the meeting last night, which was a 4-1/2-hour meeting. There will be two budget meetings next week. People interested can call in or join on Zoom.

Sue Peel encouraged people to get involved with OLWSD, adding that "sewage and water are more interesting than you would think." In addition to joining meetings on Zoom, there are committees where people may want to serve. The virus is an interesting new aspect of sewage. The team in place in the district is doing a really fine job. They have made improvements in capital replacement and redundancy on pump stations. On the water side, there are improvements needed, but they're making great headway.

Thelma Haggemiller said she is doing OK during the lockdown. Under normal circumstances, Citizens Informed & Aware (the CIA) would have held a candidates' forum. Instead, the CIA partnered with the political action group at Willamette View. They asked candidates to provide videos explaining why they're running for office. Metro Councilor Christine Lewis provided a video

about measure 26-210. Thelma said she compiled all the videos and sent out links to CIA newsletter subscribers. If you want to be added to CIA newsletter distribution list, send an email to thelma.haggenmiller@outlook.com. She does not sell or share her email list with anyone and you may opt out at any time. It's been a very trying time for candidates trying to run for office.

Eleanore Hunter thanked OLWSD for their thoughtfulness about people not being able to pay their bills right now. She asked if there has been an uptick in the use of food banks and wondered what we can do in addition to making donations to the Good Roots community food bank?

County Commissioner Martha Schrader said together with the Sheriff's Office, they have been putting together food boxes and delivering them throughout the county. It will be an ongoing program to address food insecurity. Also, through the Sheriff's Dept., they're getting lists of phone numbers for seniors and calling them to check in. Food delivery is a key part of what the county is doing to make sure people remain secure in their homes and have enough to eat. If you want to volunteer, stop by the Sheriff's Public Safety Training Center on 82nd on Mondays at 8:30 am. There are opportunities to pack boxes and deliver them to senior centers.

County Commissioner Paul Savas said the Clackamas Service Center and Father's Heart Ministry provide food for the houseless and have seen an uptick in demand for food and services. They aren't accepting clothing donations right now because of the risk of catching or spreading the virus. He thanked all the volunteers for participating, in addition to the workers trucking in food and stocking the shelves. He emphasized that social distancing is imperative. Not everyone can afford to stockpile food for six months, so it needs to be safe for people to go out and purchase the essentials they need. He added that while using Zoom, if participants have the ability to unmute themselves rather than waiting for the host, it goes smoother.

Joseph said some businesses and groups have extended their closures into June. We might be looking at having our May meeting over Zoom as well.

Joan Hamilton mentioned that Zoom participants have the ability to use the "raise hand" feature if they want to talk.

Eleanore asked if parks and outdoor spaces remain open, is playground equipment being cleaned?

Paul said Stone Creek Golf Course wants to re-open and the commissioners will be discussing it during tomorrow's business meeting. People want to go fishing and have their own boats, but it's currently disallowed. Being outdoors is obviously a good way to release stress and get some exercises, but the worry is what Eleanore mentioned. The play equipment in our parks is cleaned and then taped up as "closed," but when the park staff checks back, the tape is torn off. There's signage, but some of it has been taken down. NCPRD, county and state parks are virtually closed. We don't know enough about the virus or how long it lives on surfaces, so we need to error on the side of conservatism. If it were his children, Paul said he would not let them play on public playground equipment.

Walking outdoors is one thing, but if people start to congregate in large numbers and do not keep physical distance, it's going to be difficult. He would walk outdoors with kids, but not go to a playground. At boat ramps and on the water, there seems to be enough of a physical distance. For now, we just need to hunker down and stay there. It's the prudent thing to do.

Jan asked about the county's plan to re-open.

Paul said the state government is setting up the guidelines, with work groups for each sector, on how to re-open businesses. It will include requirements for PPE, testing, how to open in phases. It's a three-phase plan. Businesses and health officials are working very strategically on a framework and structure.

County Commissioner Martha Schrader added that she has been on the phone with greater Portland leaders and the governor's office regarding the three-phase re-opening strategy. We're still in the first phase, because we're still in crisis. In the second phase, we'll move toward loosening up. In the third phase, we'll move toward total recovery. It will probably take up to two years to get back to our "new normal." She recently observed people lining up without masks or social distancing outside an ice cream shop. The weather's good, so people are not feeling threatened. We know masks are a key component of our recovery, but how do we enforce it?

Paul segued to the topic of Happy Valley's withdrawal from NCPRD. The legislature passed and the governor signed a bill to allow Happy Valley to withdraw under certain conditions. It will have some impacts to the parks district and how we go forward. The greater unincorporated area is made up of 80,000 residents and Milwaukie has 20,000. Despite their greater numbers, unincorporated residents have not been very well represented on NCPRD's District Advisory Board (DAB) or on the Board of County Commissioners. Paul is the only commissioner who has lived in the district for the last 10 years. It's not as representative as it ought to be.

The Jennings Lodge CPO asked Paul to speak to them about this Tuesday night. The regular meeting was cancelled because of the virus. This topic is extremely important to the community, as we have not had the proportional share of parks that cities have; they have some more money, yes, but they also have political influence. In Jennings lodge, there are few parks for children to play in. The Concord property will have a library, park or both, so that will help, but it's important that we have fair representation on the advisory board.

Paul wrote an opinion piece about this recently in the Clackamas Review (see: <https://pamplinmedia.com/cr/28-opinion/455257-370507-north-clackamas-parks-not-insulated-from-county-politics>) covering one aspect of the topic – whether or not elected officials should be on the DAB. Paul encouraged everyone to attend the online Jennings Lodge meeting and read the op ed. He encouraged us to step up so the commission hears from us. Older citizens and young people want access to parks. A lot of areas have no adequate parks. Milwaukie's done a great job of making a case for their parks and have a little more political influence than we do. The Jennings Lodge CPO meeting covering this topic is Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Regarding the next DAB meeting, we'll get the word out when the meeting is scheduled.

Gene Fifield: Since the bathrooms at all parks are locked up and closed, there's no public place to wash your hands and no hand sanitizer available anywhere. Is that a good idea right now?

Paul agreed there are not enough handwashing stations, but they are out there. He said this topic has come up at three different meetings and he will

raise the issue of inadequate handwashing facilities again. They have been focusing them on areas where homeless people typically gather, but some need to be stationed along trails and in parks.

Gene also asked where are homeless going to the bathroom? Starbucks has been wrangling with a lot of traffic in and out of their restrooms. Is there an update on the status of more bathrooms for the homeless? Port-a-potties ought to be considered.

He also said he attended a meeting the other day where someone mentioned that one way to handle the virus spread is to let it run through the population, like what Sweden is doing. There's talk about opening things up, but we would have to have a lot of testing and tracing. I understand we have the capacity to test 1,200 per day in Clackamas County. Do we have test kits and personnel?

Paul said regarding contract tracing, they don't have deep enough staff to do that. The governor said to add 60 additional personnel to handle it, because it's extremely important to get to the source and isolate or quarantine people. If you watch Sweden, it's kind of scary. Oregon has the third-lowest per capita rate of virus spread in the nation. Clackamas County's numbers are really good, but Multnomah has the highest of any other county and we're neighbors.

Jan suggested using U.S. census workers as contact tracers, since they were hired and are waiting to work.

Martha agreed with Paul about the contract tracing. She emphasized we need antibody tracing, but this virus is such an unknown, we don't know if you can get re-infected even if you develop antibodies. If it follows the biology of other Coronaviruses, there is a level of immunity. The governor is attempting to pull together a plan regionally for who can do tracing, where the virus is going to be spread, etc.

Eleanore said regarding port-a-potties, there are two open on the Trolley Trail.

Joseph noted the board will be meeting during its regular date and time on the first Monday in May using Zoom. We can assume we'll probably be having a Zoom regular OGCC meeting in May. He added that when on Zoom and scrolling over the CHAT bar, if you're on an iPad, your menu is at the top. When you press it, you'll see the raised hand feature. It works differently than on a PC, where you see it if you hover over "Participants."

Eleanore sent a shout-out to Thelma for her work with Willamette View to distribute all of the primary candidates' videos. It's a fabulous public service that we have those to view.

Martha added that the county is re-allocating resources to help businesses survive. They are taking everything two-to-three weeks at a time right now.

Paul said that, with financial stuff, he's usually the guy with the bad news, so while he's hopeful there's will be a COVID-19 vaccine or antibody plasma, the problem is, there's a world-wide need. It's also going to take some time for the economy to improve. He added that the commissioners will revisit the stimulus plan for small businesses before May 4th and will have more information about help for hair salons, nail salons, restaurants and other types of small businesses.

Martha said the county is looking at doing a bank authority and taking dollars from that to help small businesses. She spoke to Lori Olund at Miles Fiberglass. They got their stimulus dollars. Smaller businesses need to get some kind of relief in order to stay alive in this economy. The CARES Act from the federal government will help some of our smaller businesses. That's the best we can do at this point because even at the county, we've had to lay off the tourism folks because our transient room taxes are gone. The North Clackamas Chamber website has a detailed list of programs and help that's available out there.

Joseph said the OGCC will continue to relay the information we get from the county and other official sources to keep everyone as informed as possible about the resources available to address ongoing needs. We will send out an announcement about the May 4th board meeting and the May 27th regular meeting, which will likely take place on Zoom.

Land Use Application Review Team (LUART):

- No Luart applications to discuss tonight

8:30 Committee updates:

- Park Ave Community Project - *Valerie Chapman*
The next Park Avenue Community Advisory Committee (PACAC) meeting will take place via Zoom on May 13 at 6 p.m.
- MAP-IT – *Joseph Edge*
The April 22nd MAP-IT meeting was cancelled and the next meeting has not yet been announced.

8:40 Announcements:

- Clackamas County Advisory Boards and Commissions (ABCs) - Open Recruitments – visit <https://web3.clackamas.us/abc/abc.jsp> for current openings and application deadlines.

8:45 Schedule review:

- Future OGCC Meetings - 7 pm on Zoom until further notice:
May 27, Jun 24, Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23, Oct 28
- Future OGCC Board Meetings - 6:45 pm on Zoom until further notice:
May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5*
*now meeting on first Monday

8:50 Adjourn