



Oak Grove Community Council

Regular Council Business Meeting December 2, 2020 Minutes

WHAT: Regular Council Business Meeting
WHEN: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
WHERE: Zoom / phone in

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 22

Susan Cassuto, Jane Civiletti, Tom Civiletti, Valerie Chapman, Sue Conachan, Dave Dobak, Jan Dobak, Joseph Edge, Thelma Haggemiller, Tom Hogan, Eleanore Hunter, Mark Knudson, Jan Lindstrom, Jim Meyer, Gwion Miller, Rich Nepon, Paul Savas, Fred Sawyer, Linda Seals, Casey Snoeberger, Baldwin van der Bijl, Greg Wenneson

NON-VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 4

Mark Elliott, Laurie Sonnenfeld, John and Jani (last name unavailable)

VISITORS / GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: 3

Sarah Jo Chaplen, Paul Gornick

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

6:50 - 7:00 Connect to Zoom

7:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Officer reports

- **October 28th Meeting minutes + membership update**

Secretary Jan Lindstrom announced that YouTube meetings have been serving as minutes beginning in May 2020 and are available to view on the OGCC's YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/OGCC>. She will have a full membership at the next meeting as we prepare for the February OGCC board elections.

- **OGCC Special Election to replace departed board member**

Chair Joseph Edge announced that OGCC Board-Member-at-Large Jason Schreppel resigned from the OGCC board due to his workload. The board has nominated **Richard (Rich) Nepon** to fill that position. Joseph invited additional nominations from the floor. There being none, the nomination of Richard Nepon becomes official. He will fill the vacancy through February, when we will elect a new slate of officers.

Rich introduced himself and thanked everyone for their vote of confidence in him. He lives three blocks south of Fred Meyer's and moved to the area a few years ago. He has a background volunteering and working in public office. He hopes to be helpful to the Council and the community. Join us in welcoming Rich to the OGCC board.

- **Treasurer's update**

Jane Civiletti announced that there have been no new donations or payments from the OGCC checking account since last month's meeting. Our balance remains \$2,212.38.

Program:

- **Oak Lodge Water Services District update**

Mark Knudson, OLWSD Board of Directors

Mark introduced OLWSD board member and Jennings Lodge resident **Paul Gornick** and General Manager **Sarah Jo Chaplen**.

Mark said OLWSD has been working on improving engagement with the community and providing more complete public information. The board consists of five volunteer members with meetings open to the public on the third Tuesday of the month at the OLWSD building.

OLWSD is committed to protecting public health, providing excellent customer service, making smart investments, protecting streams and rivers, and keeping rates affordable.

OLWSD provides three areas of service: **1)** providing safe drinking water from the Clackamas River; **2)** providing waste-water services through sewer and sewage systems; **3)** helping protect streams and rivers through stormwater management. They serve about 29,000 people from Milwaukie to Gladstone.

Recent improvements include:

- Drinking water – significant investments to seismic upgrades
- Created a water system master plan to identify priorities and plan investments over time
- Replaced all residential water meters. New meters provide more timely data to customers, greater billing accuracy. They are in the process of replacing some of the larger commercial meters.
- They completed a water audit to better manage resources and costs.

Down the road:

- Continue to make upgrades to critical facilities for seismic resilience.
- Upgrade piping to provide fire flow to help fight fires within the district

On the sanitary side:

- OLWSD made investments in the wastewater treatment plant a few years ago; now able to accommodate growth in the district.
- They are facing more challenging permit processes.
- They are saving money through maintenance rather than replacement.
- They are gearing up to start a sanitary sewer master plan to assess needs, investments in the system, identify priorities, ongoing repair and replacement.

Local governance / creating a water authority:

- In terms of the study going on about local governance (annexation into a neighboring city or incorporation), this has prompted a discussion about creating a Water Authority. An authority has certain statutory protections against withdrawals by a city; since we're between the cities of Milwaukie and Gladstone, there is citizen interest in incorporation of the service area. It's worth considering, because there are protections that come from an authority rather than a district. The authority would have the same board, etc., but it would allow OLWSD to continue focusing on essential services with rates that are based on cost of service. No additional expenses could be built in that add to ratepayer costs. An authority would also allow for existing funds as well as investments in infrastructure exclusively for water and wastewater services; it's a very stable and cost-efficient service. If annexed or incorporated, we don't know what our customer base is and what assets are available to us, which makes long-range planning difficult.

Forming an authority is complicated. There are a lot of steps involved.

Effectively, the authority would replace the district as the service provide. The process needs to be a grass-roots process initiated through the community or the BCC rather than the OLWSD board. OLWSD has commented on the governance project study and has some concerns about the process being employed. A link will be sent out in OGCC's follow-up email.

- **Paul Savas** said he would love to see some documents or language that addresses ownership of stormwater projects that can be confusing as to who's responsible – the district, the county or developers. Mark acknowledged that the memorandum of understanding makes it clear that the cleaning of catch basins is OLWSD's responsibility, but it's not clear whether the district or the county is responsibility to replace pipes, etc., so they want to pursue a strategy of getting more clarity.

- **McLoughlin Area Plan Projects & Programs**

- *Joseph Edge, Chair, OGCC*

Joseph reviewed examples of previous McLoughlin Area Plan projects and programs and asked members if they would want to refer updated MAP priorities to MAP-IT. For example, designate Oak Grove Blvd. as the next node after Park Ave. or develop a grid of neighborhoods with distinct names to better associate with different areas.

MOTION: Eleanore Hunter made a motion that the OGCC support the McLoughlin Area Plan ideas, with the inclusion of the idea about developing a grid of distinct neighborhoods, in its recommendation to MAP-IT.

Greg Wenneson seconded. **The motion PASSED with 19 voting YES, 0 voting NO and 3 ABSTAINING.**

- **Long-Range Planning project requests**

- *Joseph Edge, Chair, OGCC*

Regarding other long-range planning project requests, other ideas the OGCC has heard include:

- McLoughlin MAX/streetcar to Oregon City
- Tree protections
- Home business incompatibility with neighborhoods
- Legalize retail makerspaces in commercial districts

The board recommends affirming support for already funded projects –

- Housing strategies
- Ped-bike master plan
- Transit development plan
- Reaffirming slate of previous OGCC requests that have not been funded
- McLoughlin Area Plan ideas
- Legalize retail makerspaces in commercial districts

MOTION: Jim Meyer made a motion to approve the recommended list of requests. **Valerie Chapman** seconded. Jane Civiletti asked that we add the tree protection amendment. Jim and Valerie approved the amendment. Add other ideas to slate of requests? Jim and Valerie approved the amendment. Jane asked that we add the tree protection amendment. Jim and Valerie approved the amendment.

Committee updates

- Park Avenue Community Project – Valerie Chapman
After 15 months of the Park Avenue Community Advisory Committee working together, the group presented its work to the BCC and recommended that they move the development and design standards forward. There were some concerns by the business community and MABA, in particular the restrictions on new auto-related businesses and storage units in the node area. There was some pushback from property owners. They will have the opportunity to provide that feedback to the BCC at future meetings.
- Sidewalks Funding Opportunity – Fred Sawyer
ODOT kicked off 2024-27 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. Staff working on developing safety and other projects. We do not have any projects on the books, so Fred will put something in writing to ask for support to finish sidewalks on McLoughlin, three more ped islands and safe crossings at bus stops.
- Status of voting members 2020-21 – Joseph Edge
Due to COVID-19, the OGCC board agreed that we should roll over all voting members from 2020 to 2021. Therefore, anyone who had voting privileges in 2020, whether they made the required number of meetings or not, will be a voting member in 2021.
- OGCC Board Elections – Joseph Edge
We will be taking nominations for the OGCC Board of Directors at our January meeting and voting in February.
- Request for charitable donation – Thelma Haggemiller
The OGCC has made donations in the past to organizations that support the community. Thelma recommended that we donate \$500 to the Milwaukie Lyon's Club Food Bank because they are very short on donations for families this year.
MOTION: Thelma moved that we donate \$500 to the Milwaukie Lyon's Club in support of their Food Bank. **Valerie** seconded. The **motion PASSED** with **18 YES** votes, **0 NO** votes and **3 abstentions**.

Schedule review:

- Future OGCC Meetings - 7 pm at Zoom:
Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24
- Future OGCC Board Meetings - 6:45 pm at Zoom:
Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1

8:27 **Adjourn**