JOINT (CITY/PORT) WORK GROUP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notice and Agenda
Thursday, February 23, 2017
7:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome and Self-Introductions

3. Adoption of January 26, 2017 Minutes

4. Citizen Input

5. City/Port Issues:
   a. Continued Discussion - How to get facts and information out to the community. Continued general discussion regarding the need to be more aggressive and strategic in getting factual information out to the public regarding development opportunities. The JWGED should discuss and determine what strategies it thinks should be carried out to get all the pertinent facts out to citizens.
   b. Port Economic Development Activities.
   c. City Economic Development Activities.

6. Reports from Other Agencies.

7. Other Matters

8. Next Meeting: March 30, 2017.

9. Adjournment

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for person with disabilities, should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting the City of Cascade Locks office at 541-374-8484.

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**. The JWGED was called to order by PP Groves at 7:00 PM. Members present: PP Groves, Mayor Tom Cramblett, GM Paul Koch, Port Secretary Sally Moore, Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) Representative Aaron Sorenson, Nate Stice, Office of the Governor Kate Brown: Regional Solutions Coordinator, PC Brad Lorang, City Administrator Gordon Zimmerman, Citizen Member Gary Munkhoff,
2. Welcomes and Self-Introductions
3. **Adoption of meeting minutes December 22, 2016**
   Motion: Mayor Cramblett moved, seconded by Port Commissioner Brad Lorang to approve the December 22, 2016 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Citizen Input:** None
5. **City/Port Issues:**

   a. **Discussion** GM Koch stated that last month the group discussed strategies to get the facts out to the citizens' particularly regarding a water bottling company coming to town. This topic of getting the facts will be on the monthly agenda. Attached was a list showing different ideas on how to do this. (Exhibit 1). Mayor Cramblett stated that the group did some of these already. CA Zimmerman said the City has the capability to broadcast the facts to citizens who voluntarily sign up for an email account with the City to receive announcements. This has to be still set up however. The Port will announce items in an annual newsletter as well as their monthly newsletter. Holly is working with WSDOT and ODOT so that they can send announcements out on their common carrier system. The Cascade Market will rearrange their bulletin board to dedicate a portion of it to the City and Port for agendas and announcements. The millennials use social media stated CA Zimmerman. Making websites easier to navigate for the Port and the City is also one goal. GM Koch stated that websites can be very cumbersome and sometimes it takes 15 minutes to find what you are looking for. CP Groves stated TIB posts announcements all of the time. The Tourism Committee and the Port has a Facebook Page. CA Zimmerman stated the City does not have one. He stated it's an evolving science, but CL is hesitant to start one. CA Zimmerman gets asked questions all of the time at the Post Office. Cable TV has around 100 subscribers at this time stated CA Zimmerman. Nate Stice, Office of the Governor Kate Brown: Regional Solutions Coordinator stated there are some agencies such as Oregon Solutions and other groups that work with citizen engagement; he stated he will look into them. There was a discussion about other agencies and what resources they may have to get more facts out.

   b. **Transportation Strategies** GM Koch stated they the Port received notice of Senate Bill 454. Senator Thomsen wrote this bill and it is in the "hopper". If enacted it would be direct the Department of Transportation to establish a Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area highway improvement plan. This would include adding a westbound lane at Exit 47, provide matching funds to local communities when matching funds are needed to receive federal funding, improve emergency service access in and out of town, create a weigh station at Cascade Locks, improve the BOG by adding a bike/ped crossing, develop a comprehensive transportation plan that addresses traffic mitigation and traffic safety. GM Koch cited the train derailment in Mosier. Traffic plugged up both sides of the river. It took 4 hours for emergency vehicles to get there. PP Groves stated getting all of this together is very important. GM Koch said the BOG is now certified and on the National Highway System. They are trying to get on the

Skamania County Transportation Plan. PP Groves stated the Port is looking at other funding options; one being the bike/ped overcrossing and the other the seismic upgrades on the BOG. There will be a transportation meeting next week. The Port Engineer will be here to discuss realistic costs. GM Koch stated on February 15 there will be the *Gorgeous Night* out in Olympia. On March 9, it will be held in Salem. These are important to get to know the legislators. CA Zimmerman discussed and reviewed the adopted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) lists of priorities. It goes to HR County and they decide what the important projects are. He attended the Mid- Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) meeting today. MCEDD takes the lists from 5 counties and adopts them in a priority order. Housing was number one and Building a new Hood River Bridge was priority number two. Number three is the BOG 15 year plan. Exit 14, rebuilding of Frontage Road, and the Port overcrossing was added on the CEDS list.

Citizen Member Bernard Seeger arrived at 7:30.

c. **Port Economic Development Strategies:** GM stated the Port will adopt a Whistle Blower policy. This will enable the Port to receive a 2% reduction on some of their insurance premiums. Ravenwood Group Inc. spent a half hour with the Port's Economic Development sub-committee talking about the next level of their building plans. It was very positive. GM Koch stated it might be a good idea to have them come to a JWEDG meeting. They do residential and small commercial building. GM Koch stated the Port Commission adopted a new 15 year BOG Preservation and Maintenance plan replacing the 10 year BOG plan. GM Koch announced that Marketing Director Holly Howell is moving to Silverton. On February 13 at 6pm in the Pavilion, there will be a Community potluck social to thank Holly for all of her good work in the community. PP Groves stated Holly may work for the Port from time to time on an hourly basis. GM Koch stated the Budget instructions were given the Managers today. GM Koch there will be some pretty significant changes. The overcrossing project was adopted by the Port. The stairs/elevator plan was adopted. The Pony Advisory Committee will be rescheduled due to bad weather.

d. **City Economic Development Strategies** CA Zimmerman stated the City ended up with 38 residential permits and one commercial building permit. By issuing 30-40 housing permits a year the City will be full within 2 years and no more land for large sub-divisions in CL. There are five more commercial building permits projected this year. There are some illegal home marijuana grows outside of the City limits. There is a legal operation on Smokey Mountain Logistics land. The reason the City knows about the illegal grows is because they buy and use a lot of electricity. It matters because they are growing in the National Scenic Area. . The Feds can get involved in breaking up the illegal grows. CA Zimmmerman stated as a result of the devastating recent ice and snow storm, CL and any public entity can collect extraordinary costs and submit to the County. any receipts over $80,000 will to the Governor and are eligible for $75% reimbursement costs.

6. **Reports from Other Agencies:** MHCC Representative Aaron Sorenson stated that the college will have two new programs that are accredited in 2017. The first is Medical Assisting. It is one step up from a CNA. It is already accredited. The second program is is Mechatronics. It is not yet accredited and is awaiting approval. However, it is being advertised as a program is the fall. Mechatronics is a multidisciplinary field of science

that includes a combination of mechanical engineering, electronics, computer engineering, telecommunications engineering, telecommunications engineering, systems engineering and control engineering. Citizen Member Bernard Seegar asked about the downtown design plan and how it fits in with the overcrossing plan. He stated the past design was to make it look like the BOG. PP Groves stated it is still in the design plan. Commissioner Lorang stated that the idea of making it look like the BOG is still aesthetically an option to make it look like it and still make it structurally sound. GM Koch stated the next phase will be to determine what materials will be used. Bernard Seegard stated he visited Renewal Workshop. He stated they have a ton of material and it's cool that we can be nationally known. They are shipping out of CL. CP Groves stated the Port remodeled the Flex 1 building (old warehouse) for a company known as Perceptual Testing. They work with people that have motor skills difficulties. Nate Stice stated that that Nestle is on the table. CA Zimmerman stated the water transfer process has been filed. The water exchange is still in the Attorney General's office and what the process will be is being determined. Gary Munkhoff asked if the transfer process is dead. CA Zimmerman stated the water right is out of Little Herman Creek. The water right exchange is still in process. The group had a brief discussion on the process and Nate Stice said to contact him for questions.

7. **Other Matters:** Nate Stice discussed the Airport project. Nate stated that looking at highest and best for the Airport is the goal and working on the scope that the City/Port developed. The Aviation community is looking at this closely as well. He attended one of the Aviation Board meetings last week. Their topic was safety. There was testimony from people landing there and many stories. They want to be part of the process. They are organizing and will participate in the process. The other piece his group is looking for funding to do the feasibility study on the highest and best use of the property. They are looking to Business Oregon for help. The Pilots Organization has contacted Nate's office as well. PP Groves stated nothing has been fixed at the Airport in years. The Airport has been offered to the Port numerous times for free. All stakeholders need to be involved stated Nate. GM Koch stated the Community needs to have an expert study done to determine the best and highest use for the community is. Regional Solutions can bring all partners to the table stated Nate. PP Groves thanked Nate for all of his hard work and stated the Governors speech was all about helping small rural towns. CP Groves sees this as Economic Development for the Community; and does not believe it is being used properly as an Airport. He stated study needs to show the true facts about the upkeep of the Airport. GM Koch stated he has developed a relationship with the Field Director of the Oregon Pilots Association, and an Advisory Committee will have to be formed. Citizen Member Gary Munkhoff asked about the process of decommissioning an Airport site. Nate stated it is quite a process. Nate stated above all the feasibility study will have to be done first to show the "highest and best" use of the property. GM Koch asked the Joint Work Group to create a seat for Nate Stice as the Representative the Governor's Office for the group. Nate stated he felt it may declare a conflict of interest and becoming an ex officio member may be better. Nate stated he will try to attend as many meetings as possible.
Motion: PC Lorang motioned to make the Regional Solutions Coordinator an ex officio member. Seconded by Citizen Member Bernard Seegar. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen member Bernard Seegar discussed new street lighting downtown. He volunteered buying the first one. They are about $3,500. He believes there are enough people in town that would volunteer to pay for one light. Those lights would make downtown look so much better. CA Zimmerman offered to discuss this with Mr. Seegar.

8. **Next meeting: February 23, 2017**
9. **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.**

Prepared by
Sally Moore Port of Cascade Locks

APPROVED:

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Jess Groves, Port President