



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6570

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC 2022 RETREAT MEETING MINUTES

9:00 AM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

Five Pines Lodge, Sisters
VIRTUAL MEETING PLATFORM

Present were Commissioners Patti Adair, Anthony DeBone, and Phil Chang. Also present were Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Dave Doyle, County Legal Counsel (via Zoom conference call) and Sharon Keith, Board Executive Assistant (via Zoom conference call). Additional staff present were Deputy County Administrators Whitney Hale and Erik Kropp, and via Zoom conference call Public Information Officer Morgan Emerson and Internal Auditor David Givans

This meeting was audio and video recorded and can be accessed at the Deschutes County Meeting Portal website www.deschutes.org/meetings.

Note: there were technical difficulties with the audio and video system throughout the meeting due to the off-site location.

Introduction: The meeting started at 9:10 a.m. and Holly Koeksema, professional development coach and facilitator, and reviewed the outlined of today's meeting.

Commissioner Priorities:

- **Commissioner Adair** reported on a technical issue experienced during yesterday's

meeting and thanked the team for their work and for their responsiveness over the last few years during this tough time with the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic. Commissioner Adair's priorities for the upcoming year include addressing the homeless population concerns in Deschutes County and suggests using the Deer Ridge facility as a location for a psychiatric hospital until a permanent structure could be constructed. She requests an analysis to be done on the 10 acre parcel for a Rogue Retreat Oasis village in an effort to reduce the numbers of homeless and wildfire risk at China Hat. Commissioner Adair hopes a recreation of the veteran's village can be accomplished in La Pine and in Redmond. She spoke on the priorities of Terrebonne sewer system and the Tumalo system. She also commented on the employee shortage at St. Charles Health System, the water needs of the north unit for the farmers, expansion needs of child care for employees, continued fire free program, and her gratitude for the BOCC office staff for staying open during the pandemic.

- **Commissioner Chang** also thanked the staff and community for their efforts during COVID19. Commission Chang recommends the County consider the idea of vaccine incentives for Deschutes County employees. In the realm of homelessness, there are organizations providing services and the County needs to assist them to increase their capacity. Additional priorities for him are enabling services for CPACE, investments from partners for the stabilization center, investments for affordable housing, a feasibility study for the creation of a County campground/park, efforts to reduce carbon in our environment, increasing efforts for defensible space as wildfire prevention, and advocating for the wildlife migration corridor. In addition he noted he is engaged in water resource discussions.
- **Commissioner DeBone** commented on the governing process. His list of priorities includes housing of any kind, advocating for campgrounds, statewide land use and discussions with state legislators, managing the growth of Deschutes County through investments, tax bill, department opportunities and challenges. Commissioner DeBone congratulated Nick as the new County Administrator. The world is changing with COVID and technology. Main goals should be engaging with our partners and department through our goals and objectives and listening to each department and their staffing needs and challenges. Regarding campgrounds he recommended looking to the east side of Redmond. He advocates for campgrounds to address needs for the homeless population. Commissioner DeBone expressed the need for further information on the concept of a joint office for homelessness. Commissioner DeBone reported the La Pine Rural Fire District is requesting a fireworks ban. He commented on the positives of being able to keep Deschutes County's doors open during COVID with video meetings and technology.
- County Administrator Lelack thanked staff for their work achieved on the logistics of this meeting today.

Recess: At the time of 10:10 a.m., a recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Group Discussion: Budget Priorities: The goal is for discussion and to address priorities. Mr. Lelack reviewed the list of priorities presented by departments to form the budget process to address challenges anticipated for the upcoming year. Discussion held on transient room tax and community growth. Projects and space needs of the county were discussed. Commissioner Chang commented on the possible long term needs for remote work which would help lessen the increased space needs for departments.

Departments requested to present during the afternoon discussion are Health Services for the stabilization center, County Forester and Solid Waste Director regarding defensible space for properties and yard debris collection. Funding needs for capital improvements and available County assets will be a discussion at a future meeting. A discussion regarding goals and investments for housing will be held at a later times as well. Commissioner Adair stressed the importance of adding a psychiatrist position in the Health Services department. Commissioner Chang suggested a discussion with Finance and Community Development Department regarding eligible uses and funding for land development for housing. Mr. Lelack spoke on methods to improve employee retention and the upcoming employee survey. Commissioner Adair reiterated the need for child care options for our employees.

Other: Mr. Lelack reported Mike Maier, Budget Committee member, will be moving out of state by May and will create a vacancy on the Budget Committee. The Board expressed support of opening the recruitment for that position. Mr. Maier's current term ends this year December 31, 2022.

Recess: At the time of 11:55 a.m., a recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

Working Lunch: BOCC Committee Assignments Discussion:

- Commissioner Adair reviewed her appointments and offered her seat on the Audit Committee, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, and Sisters Park & Recreation Budget Committee.
- Commissioner DeBone reviewed his list of appointments and noted his interested in taking the COIC board participation.
- Commissioner Chang noted his interest in serving on COIC as well. Commissioner Chang felt last year that he ended up with fewer committee assignments and feels he has capacity to take on additional committees. Commissioner Chang is

interested in taking the Public Safety Coordinating Council, Area Commission on Transportation, Central Oregon Health Council, and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

Commissioner Chang will take the COIC seat for 2022.

Recess: At the time of 12:51 p.m., a recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

Department Participation:

- **Defensible Space / Fire Free Program and Wildfire Prevention Measures** (Solid Waste, Natural Resources, and Community Development Department).

Commissioner Adair introduced the discussion to address the concerns for defensible space, need for additional dates for the fire free program, and requirements for Senate Bill 762. Present via Zoom conference call were Solid Waste Director Chad Centola, County Forester Ed Keith, and Community Development Department Director Peter Gutowsky. Commissioner Chang inquired on yard debris containers for communities that currently do not have them available. Mr. Centola commented on a proposed expansion of services in the unincorporated areas to include curbside collection that is included in the BOCC agenda for Monday. Commissioner Adair recommended beginning the fire free events in April to give additional opportunities for the community. Mr. Centola noted the dates were later based on weather conditions with snow on the ground but could make the event begin earlier based on low snow levels. Mr. Centola spoke on volumes of materials through the increased community efforts on defensible space and commented on benefits of biomass options. Mr. Keith commented on the potential impacts that will be seen through Senate Bill 762 noting the south portion of the County has the bulk of the fuels in proportion to Deschutes County as a whole. Commissioner Chang asked Mr. Keith to crunch some numbers of fuels reduction levels and variables that will be seen based on the new state requirements. Commissioner Adair inquired on a container for burning yard debris that Black Butte Ranch uses to dispose of fuels reduction materials. Mr. Centola reported on the machine would be difficult to have due to permitting. Mr. Keith noted the work being done on streamlining the permitting through permit DEQ. Discussion held on other options of handling yard debris including wood chip options. Commissioner DeBone recommends additional outreach to the community.

Mr. Gutowsky spoke on the Senate Bill 762 and the wildfire hazard ratings that will elevate awareness of Deschutes County's risk of wildfire and expectations of local

governments. Commissioner Chang inquired when the state will enforce the requirements. Mr. Keith reported the state fire marshal intends to use their community risk reduction fund to offer incentives by January 2023. Commissioner DeBone commented on home insurance policies that may trigger the priority to accomplish this effort.

Recess: At the time of 1:52 p.m., a recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 2:01 p.m.

- **Stabilization Center:** Health Services staff Janice Garceau, Holly Harris, and Chris Weiler and Sheriff's Office staff Captain Michael Shults and Joe Brundage were present via Zoom conference call to discuss funding and services provided at the Stabilization Center. There is a current gap of \$1.4 million as \$3.4 million is the total cost per year to operate the stabilization center. For the budget planning, staff reported any requests for funding for the stabilization center would be through the County general fund.
- **Housing Discussion:** Present via Zoom was Property Manager Kristie Bollinger, Chief Financial Officer Greg Munn, and CDD Director Peter Gutowsky. Mr. Gutowsky commented on state law and county responsibility on housing coordination. Ms. Bollinger reported on Deschutes County properties that may be considered. Mr. Lelack noted the property management department needs additional staff support. Mr. Lelack spoke on land use regulations and opportunities for housing units.

Recess: At the time of 3:23 p.m., a recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 3:41 p.m.

Discussion Update County Goals and Objectives:

The Board reviewed the current list of goals and objectives in consideration of revisions for the upcoming year. Commissioner DeBone envisions a one page document. The Board offered language changes to the document regarding services provided.

Approve Draft Goals and Objectives:

Staff will use the results of the discussion to form a draft version for review.

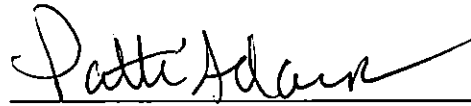
Closing Remarks:

- Commissioner Chang inquired whether the Commissioner suggestions will be taken for further review. Mr. Lelack will present during the budget meetings how the items could be implemented.

- Commissioner Adair expressed thanks to staff for all of their work to organize the meeting today.
- Commissioner DeBone spoke on managing growth and the positive time of life.
- Mr. Lelack thanked the Commissioners for their work for services toward our community and staff.
- Commissioner Chang thanked everyone for the discussion today.

ADJOURN: Being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

DATED this 23 Day of February 2022 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

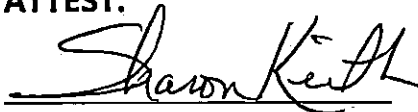


PATTI ADAIR, CHAIR

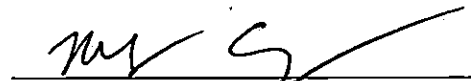


ANTHONY DEBONE, VICE CHAIR

ATTEST:



RECORDING SECRETARY



PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER