



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY August 14, 2023

Allen Room
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Also present were County Administrator Nick Lelack; Deputy County Administrator Whitney Hale; County Counsel David Doyle; and BOCC Executive Assistant Brenda Fritsvold.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT: None

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Project Updates from ODOT

Bob Townsend, Central Oregon and Lower John Day Area Manager for ODOT, presented an update on several in-process and upcoming ODOT projects in Deschutes County.

Commissioner DeBone noted that the US 97/US 20 Bend north corridor improvements at Tumalo will require drivers to adjust to the new configurations and encouraged caution while becoming familiar with the revised traffic patterns.

Continuing, Townsend said the US 97 Terrebonne/Lower Bridge Way project is on pace to go out for bids in mid-November. Saying that Highway 126 from Redmond

to Powell Butte will undergo a long overdue pavement preservation project, he said phase one of the US 97 Redmond-Bend safety project includes deceleration lanes at Quarry Avenue and 61st and a meridian barrier installation south from the Deschutes Market interchange. In late 2024, construction will commence on multi-use paths along US 97 from Baker Road to Lava Butte--that project is a partnership between ODOT and the High Desert Museum.

Townsend concluded that as gas tax revenues have declined, ODOT will focus more on maintenance and less on improvements until revenues recover.

OTHER ITEMS:

- County Administrator Nick Lelack spoke to efforts made by the State earlier this year to identify potential locations for siting managed camps and shared possible criteria for narrowing the sites in Deschutes County for the Board's evaluation—one possible criterion is to evaluate sites sized 3.5 acres or more.

Commissioner Chang supported considering sites as small as 1.0 or 1.5 acres for this use.

Commissioner DeBone relayed that Governor Kotek called him on Friday; during the conversation she stated that a managed camp cannot be located outside of city limits.

Commissioner Chang understood that the Governor is asking the County to exhaust all options within the UGB in order that shelter residents live close to services, jobs and long-term housing.

Commissioner Adair confirmed that the State is looking for land in the city and said a larger site would offer a healthier transition for campers who relocate from unsanctioned sites.

Commissioner Chang said smaller sites must be considered as a site of 3.5 to 4.0 acres will not be found in Bend. He estimated that the Medford Urban Campground No. 1 is comprised of approximately one acre, yet hosts up to 100 people at a time, and listed benefits of this program.

The Board reached consensus to ask OEM for a list of State-owned sites sized one acre or larger in Bend's Urban Growth Boundary which may be available for siting a managed camp.

- Commissioner DeBone announced he will speak at the Redmond Rotary meeting in two weeks and is considering presenting his idea of establishing a long-term visitor area.

Commissioner Chang said that Commissioner DeBone should present this concept as his own and not as the Board's or the County's.

Commissioner DeBone explained the concept, which would allow visitors who abide by rules to remain for up to six months. He envisioned this area as a sanctioned place that would offer a sense of community for those seeking support, stability, safety and some services.

Discussion ensued about the process for bringing an idea of this kind to the Board for its consideration.

- Commissioner DeBone relayed advice from Senator Wyden on unsanctioned camping, which is to focus efforts on addressing illegal drug activity.
- Commissioner Adair announced the CHRO meeting this Thursday will include an update from DCSO on China Hat.
- Commissioner Adair announced a barbeque on Saturday, August 19th at the Veterans Ranch.
- Commissioner DeBone said he and about 80 others helped clean up an unsanctioned camp in La Pine on Saturday.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

At 2:20 pm, the Board recessed into executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations.

The Board exited the executive session at 2:37 pm to direct staff to proceed as discussed, and then recessed into executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations.

The Board exited the executive session at 3:09 pm with no action taken.

ADJOURN:

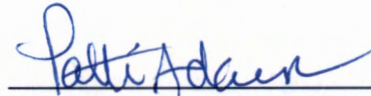
Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

DATED this 20th Day of Sept. 2023 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR

ATTEST:



PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR



RECORDING SECRETARY



PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER