



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

BOCC MEETING MINUTES

1:00 PM

MONDAY January 23, 2023

Barnes Sawyer Rooms
Live Streamed Video

Present were Commissioners Anthony DeBone, Patti Adair, and Phil Chang. Also present were Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Kim Riley, Assistant County Counsel; and Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN INPUT: None

Commissioner Chang advocated allowing public comment on items that are on the current meeting agenda, saying that it would make sense to permit timely input.

Commissioner DeBone said he appreciates hearing from constituents, and people are welcome to call or email the Commissioners at any time or set up an in-person meeting. He spoke to the potential effects of many people wishing to comment at a meeting on matters unrelated to a public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. ARPA Grant Status Update: NeighborImpact Childcare Expansion Program

Laura Skundrick, Management Analyst, reminded that in October of 2021, the Board approved several ARPA grants to NeighborImpact to expand childcare in the County. She introduced Karin Prow, NeighborImpact Child Care Resources Director, who provided an update on its Work Force Fast Track Teacher Training project which recruits, trains and supports early childhood educators. Prow spoke to the great need for early childhood teachers and shared information on the partnerships built with childcare centers across the county.

Prow further reported on the small capacity grants which will be distributed by NeighborImpact, saying that all childcare providers in the county were contacted to determine their interest in participating. She concluded that the Pathways project continues to recruit and support early childhood educators in partnership with other organizations such as WorkSource Oregon.

2. Economic Development Loan to Tiny Watts Solar

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager, explained the request from Tiny Watts Solar for an economic development loan in the amount of \$12,000. Loans made from the County's Economic Development Loan Program are conditioned upon the business creating a specified number of new jobs within 12 months, then maintaining those new jobs for a consecutive 12-month period.

Patterson introduced Steve Curley, REDI Director (EDCO) and Bruce Barrett, who serves on EDCO's Due Diligence Committee. Curley described Tiny Watts Solar as a Redmond-based company that provides off-grid solar power solutions. They specialize in lithium battery solar power kits for conversion van vehicles, the marine industry, and other off-grid applications. The company sells 90% of its products outside of Central Oregon.

Barrett shared how EDCO has coordinated with Tiny Watts Solar to achieve efficiencies and increase marketing of their products.

CHANG: Move Board approval of the request from Tiny Watts Solar for an economic development loan in the amount of \$12,000

ADAIR: Second

VOTE: ADAIR: Yes
CHANG: Yes
DEBONE: Chair votes yes. Motion Carried

3. Treasury and Finance Reports for December 2022

Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Bill Kuhn, County Treasurer. Tintle presented the treasury and finance reports for December, 2022.

At 2:09, the meeting was recessed until 3:00 to accommodate the attendance of Commissioners DeBone and Adair at another meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 3:07 pm.

4. Preparation for a Public Hearing: Commercial Activity in Conjunction with Farm Use (Meadery on Highway 20 near Sisters)

Nathaniel Miller, Associate Planner, provided background information in advance of the upcoming public hearing involving commercial activity in conjunction with farm use. The applicant seeks to obtain a conditional use permit to establish a meadery (honey winery) with associated uses in the Exclusive Farm Use Zone. The location of the proposed meadery is 68540 Highway 20 on land owned by the applicant.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Miller said some regulations in Oregon state law which apply to uses that involve growing grapes to make wine do not apply to uses that involve keeping bees to produce honey to make wine.

In response to Commissioner Adair, Miller said the owner uses the rest of the property for hay production. Miller emphasized the Hearings Examiner found that the applicant had not satisfactorily demonstrated that the meadery use will be incidental and subordinate to the property's farm use.

Commissioner Chang asked to know how much honey is needed to make any amount of mead, and in turn, how many bees or hives are needed to make that much honey.

Chair DeBone noted the consensus of the Board to allow 30 minutes during the public hearing for the applicant/appellant, and three minutes to other parties who wish to testify.

5. Deschutes County Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Tarik Rawlings, Associate Planner, sought direction from the Board on next steps to take with respect to the County's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. Rawlings reviewed that last year, the Board directed staff to pursue dark skies best

practices and policies as part of the Deschutes County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update process. The Board subsequently expressed support for revisiting DCC Chapter 15.10 as a standalone work item, emphasizing educational outreach efforts rather than code enforcement responses.

Commissioner DeBone expressed his support for education and outreach efforts and asked how the County can best share information and engage people on this topic.

Commissioner Chang agreed that education and outreach are important. He suggested partnering with Visit Central Oregon and using social media, TV and radio advertising in addition to targeting group gatherings such as homeowner associations, block parties and the Fair.

Commissioner Adair noted her appreciation for some of the restrictions adopted in 1994—for example, the limited time that motion sensors can remain on once activated. Commissioner Chang said some updates may be needed to address technology advances since 1994.

Will Groves, Planning Manager, advised assembling a stakeholder panel to explore different ways of approaching this subject at various levels of regulation.

Commissioner Chang said in addition to involving the tourism industry, the County should incentivize change-outs of outdoor lighting with discounts or rebates.

County Administrator Nick Lelack suggested possibly using the Futures Fund program for outreach, education and incentives.

Commissioner Adair noted the existence of valid reasons to have some lighting at night—to illuminate flags and home addresses, for example.

Chair DeBone noted the consensus of the Board to direct staff to convene a panel to gather input and develop draft updates to the Code.

OTHER ITEMS:

- County Administrator Nick Lelack reported the request for a Commissioner to speak at the statewide tourism conference in April; the Board concurred to appoint Commissioner Chang to this role.
- Chief Financial Officer Robert Tintle said an item on the Board's upcoming consent agenda will ask for authorization to establish a checking account for the Sheriff's Office. Tintle explained this is being sought in response to an

internal audit and will enable transactions to be tracked electronically rather than manually.

- Commissioner Adair reported on the Eastern Oregon Counties Association meeting this afternoon.
- Commissioner DeBone said he will participate in a phone call tomorrow morning with Senator Findley and others.
- Commissioner DeBone noted interviews will be held tomorrow for the position of IT director.

At 3:54 pm, a brief break was announced. The meeting reconvened at 3:58 to recess into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

At 3:58 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Real Property Negotiations. The Board moved out of executive session at 4:34 p.m. to direct staff to proceed as discussed.

At 4:34 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Litigation. The Board moved out of executive session at 5:04 p.m. to direct staff to proceed as discussed.


ADJOURN:

Being no further items to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

DATED this 8th Day of February 2023 for the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.



ANTHONY DEBONE, CHAIR



PATTI ADAIR, VICE CHAIR



PHIL CHANG, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



RECORDING SECRETARY