



Senior Center and LINX Transit

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ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2025

MTG REPORT

Members Present: Cody Wack, Linda Meredith, Barbara Hemnes, Marlene Flyer, Sherry Leist, Dorrie Board

Excused Absence: Jolie Root

Staff Present: Rebecca Wirfs and Kindra Oliver (via Teams)

1. WELCOME:

Meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m.

2. MINUTES:

Linda moved to approve the minutes from the October 16th, 2024 Advisory Board meeting; Marlene seconded; motion passed unanimously.

3. REPORTS:

Meal Site:

- Tori continues to look for additional volunteers to drive and help in the kitchen. Tori can utilize volunteers who can drive once a month up to every day of the week.
- Cascades West Council of Governments has \$25,000 in Covid funds to purchase new equipment for the Senior Center kitchen, including a new food warmer and a new stove. Kindra and Rebecca are working with Maintenance to facilitate any inspections, etc that might be needed for the new equipment.
- Marlene asked if any of the new upgrades would impact the walk in space used as storage for Friends of the Library. Kindra indicated the storage area would not be impacted.

Senior Center:

- The Senior Center 10th annual Tree of Giving Program helped to coordinate 44 local seniors to have a cheery and happy holiday, along with a sense of community and belonging.
- The Senior Center recently added a Diamond Art craft group to the schedule of activities. This group will meet the third Wednesday of each month.

- We've seen some increases in numbers for our Friday movies, which topped out with 32 in attendance last week!
- Our Facebook presence has seen an increase in participation via increased followers and comments on our posts. We are going to continue to explore ways of improving and increasing our presence on social media and getting more information to our community.
- We purchased a new refrigerator for Senior Center activities, which helps to provide necessary space for our ongoing and larger events.
- Sandra, one of our volunteers, is back helping to volunteer to do crafts. Thank you to Barb who has been filling in for card crafts, along with helping to fill in with so many other roles, as well.
- Linda noted she enjoyed the Info Bites program and was curious how well attended it was. Rebecca noted that the Info Bites program is typically fairly well attended. In person speakers always bring in more people (average of 15 or so), versus when we show a video and have group discussion. We are looking ahead and hoping to get some more in person speakers to present.
- OSU Extension Services is offering 10 minute university garden topics video presentations, as we head into Spring. We have the weekly presentations on our schedule and will facilitate discussion after each video presentation.
- Senior Center staff have been discussing the program schedule for larger events and programs for the next six months in order to start the planning process for any speakers, entertainment and to promote so the public and other senior facilities are aware and can plan to attend. Larger events include our National Health and Fitness Day, Older Americans Act Month Celebration, maybe a Luau, and more!
- We just received notice that OCWCOG will be doing an audit for our EBP programs in February. We have received Older Americans Act (OAA) funds through COG the last few years for our evidence based exercise programs and for our I-pad program.
 - \$10,000 in FY22-23 for EBP's
 - \$15,000 in FY23-24 for EBP's and \$10,000 for the purchase of I-pads and I-pad programs
 - \$10,000 in current FY24-25 for EBP's

LINX Transit:

- At the mid-point of the fiscal year, we are at 36,400 rides provided, which is a 21% increase from last year. We provided 6,389 more rides at the mid-point of the year than we did in all of FY21-22, just three years ago. We are on track to provide 72,000-75,000 rides this fiscal year.
- We have a new full-time LINX Driver, Danae, that started on January 2nd. She is currently training with other LINX drivers and staff and will be driving solo starting next week.
- We have an open recruitment for a part-time LINX Driver and hope to have that position filled in the next couple of weeks.

- LINX Transit has taken possession of a “new to us” 2016 Ford Transit van, which was gifted to us from the Sweet Home Dial-a-Bus and Linn Shuttle program. The van has reached its “useful life,” with 172,000 miles, but still has many miles left to go. LINX Transit has seven cut away buses (12 to 18 passenger), one 6 passenger van and now one 8 passenger van, for a total of 9 vehicles. All vehicles are equipped with ADA lifts and space for multiple mobility devices. During peak periods, we are running eight vehicles, so the additional van is very much needed to provide service at the level we are. Thank you to the Sweet Home Dial-a-Bus and Linn Shuttle Program!

- LINX Transit has received word back from the following grant applications for the FY2025-27 biennium:
 - Allocation of \$1,598,000 in Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) payroll funds, for LINX operations.
 - Allocation of \$190,000 in STIF population funds, for LINX operations.
 - Allocation of \$428,000 in STIF Discretionary Funds through ODOT, for LINX operations expansion to respond to the significant increases in ridership over the last few years; The recommendation to fund the grant was approved by the ODOT Public Transportation Advisory Committee on December 2nd. The recommendations for funding will now be forwarded to the Oregon Transportation Commission for review and to seek final approval in early 2025.
 - Allocation of \$262,657 in federal 5311 funds for LINX operations; this is an allocation from ODOT, based on prior year service metrics, including number of rides, service miles driven and service hours for most recent year or data available in the National Transit Database.
 - Allocation of \$55,966 in federal 5310 funds for maintenance expenses related to the LINX fleet, to follow preventative maintenance plans at proper mileage intervals and keep the vehicles in excellent working order. The addition of our City Mechanic has been a game changer. We are very thankful to be able to have vehicles looked at and worked on in a very timely manner and safety and preventative maintenance held to the highest standard.
 - Match for a federal grant for a new LINX expansion bus, in the amount \$27,000 through ODOT STIF Discretionary funds.
 - Match for a federal grant for a new LINX replacement bus, in the amount \$18,486 through ODOT STIF Discretionary funds.

- LINX Transit Project Updates:
 - LINX Fleet Parking: The paving is complete and our Maintenance Department is working on the striping, lighting and curbing. There is still more work to complete on the project, but we should be able to park the buses on the lot in early February.
 - LINX Transit bus stop improvements at Park & Oak Street: We have a consulting firm that started a cultural assessment for the property on Park & Oak Street. We will submit the assessment to ODOT and the FTA when it is finalized, hopefully in the next week or two. Once we have approval from ODOT and the FTA that the environmental NEPA process has been satisfied, we can move forward with the improvements.
 - LINX Transit scheduling and dispatching software: We have been meeting with vendors who responded to our Request for Information (RFI) for the scheduling and dispatching software to take us through demos of their products. We plan to publish the Request for Proposal (RFP) in early February.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Cody mentioned the Tree of Giving as a fund raiser. He did reach out to try and find more information on how it worked for the BG Club.

5. DISCUSSION / NEW BUSINESS:

- Cody had a question regarding providing service to those individuals with a disability that may need more assistance. Kindra noted that LINX Transit does provide reasonable accommodations as a part of their service to assist those who request or appear to need more assistance. For example, our drivers are allowed to help push a manual wheelchair into the front doors of a doctor's office, as long they still have direct sight of the bus. Drivers can also carry a rider's groceries to their front doorsteps if they're not able to. We have a great team of drivers and dispatchers that truly do care about those we're serving.
- Senior Center staff thought it would be a nice idea to schedule a social opportunity for seniors to meet our SC/LINX Advisory Board. This would be an informal gathering, letting seniors know a bit more about our SC/LINX Advisory Board. We could get some valuable feedback, see what is and isn't working well and get some new ideas from seniors directly. Kindra and Rebecca will talk about possible dates as board members liked the idea.
- In March, Center will be doing a weekly woman in history series in honor of Women's History Month. Linda Meredith shared about some of the history presentations that she has been to in Brownsville and suggested some contacts.
- A question was raised about CDC warnings regarding the bird flu and other illnesses that are spreading quickly and causing people to become very ill. We still have masks and sanitizer available for seniors and staff while visiting the Senior Center. We also continue with cleaning and sanitizing methods for helping to keep things clean and people as healthy as we can. We will be proactive however we can. If things were to progress, we could reinstate some of the safety protocols that were in place during the Covid-19 pandemic and shift some of our programming to remote, so seniors could still participate from their homes.
- Next Advisory Board Meetings scheduled:
April 16th, 10:00 am

6. ADJOURNMENT