

Depoe Bay Economic Development Committee
Regular Meeting – Thursday, October 3, 2013 - 7:00 pm
Depoe Bay City Hall

Present: Noelie Achen (arrived 7:02 pm), Bob Blessinger, Pat Dunlop, Robert Gambino, Michael Granat, Michael Kiefer, Ken White
City Staff: City Recorder P. Murray

Gambino called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 7:00 pm. Granat noted his email address needs to be corrected on the members list. Murray will make the correction and redistribute the list.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

MOTION: Gambino moved to elect Michael Kiefer as Chair. Dunlop seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed.

AYES: Achen, Blessinger, Dunlop, Gambino, Granat, Kiefer, White

MOTION: Granat moved to elect Ken White as Vice-Chair. Kiefer seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed.

AYES: Achen, Blessinger, Dunlop, Gambino, Granat, Kiefer, White

Kiefer took the Chair's seat.

Approve Minutes – September 5, 2013 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Dunlop moved to approve the minutes as written. Gambino seconded.

VOTE: Motion passed.

AYES: Achen, Blessing, Dunlop, Gambino, Granat, White

ABSTAIN: Kiefer

Public Input Gambino asked if Carrie was going to be here this evening. Dunlop didn't think so, but passed around a copy of Newell's book. Dunlop explained Carrie's whale rubbing project from previous years, and that she was going to be working on renewing it. Kiefer asked if the city posts public notice of EDC meetings on the city's website. Murray explained that agendas are posted on the website, at the post office and sent to the news media. Granat confirmed that Peter Wang will not be at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. City Survey Kiefer explained the background of the survey project, saying it is an effort toward "unity in the community". Dunlop would like to see the survey extend to Lincoln Beach/Gleneden Beach area. Kiefer explained this is a city survey and will not extend beyond city limits. Discussion ensued on how to proceed with review of each member's suggested survey questions (copies attached to the original of these minutes).

Review of suggested questions for the "Residents" category began. It was agreed to include the following: **Question 1)** Please number the items below in order of their importance to you. 1 being most important and 15 being least important. – street improvement and lighting/storm drain maintenance; library/learning center/senior center complex; emergency road to be used if highway 101 were not available; pedestrian/bike paths; police protection; improvements to city buildings and property; additional off-street parking/sidewalks in business areas; erosion control; land use planning/ordinance enforcement; city beautification (underground utilities/city parks/open spaces); public restrooms; city assistance in event of a natural disaster; youth mentoring and programs; city-wide tsunami evacuation drill.

Question 2) In regard to activities for children, what areas do you feel need the most improvement? A. After school programs (including a place for children to have a meal); B. Sports activities (including team sports); C. School assistance (including homework help and counseling); D. Alcohol and drug information /prevention (including mentoring and support groups); E. Other. **Question 3)** Do you feel there is adequate law enforcement in Depoe Bay? A. Yes; B. No. **Question 4)** What should the city do to better serve its senior residents? A. Nothing; B. Develop “Senior Only” events and activities; C. Establish a recurring date and time for senior activities/socials at the Community Hall; D. Develop a free or inexpensive city wide on-call shuttle service during daytime hours (doctor appointments, grocery shopping, attending events, etc.).

It was agreed that each category will also include a place (question 5) for “Other Comments Related to This Category”.

Kiefer interrupted the survey questions review to allow Carrie Newell, 234 SE Highway 101, to speak to the Committee. Newell feels the ultimate goal is for everyone to work together to make Depoe Bay what it is, the Whale Watching Capital of the World. Depoe Bay is the only place in the world with named resident whales. She explained her whale-rubbing project from five years ago and plans to renew the project, starting at her whale museum, looping around town with stops at participating businesses. When asked what the city could do to help, she said being supportive and helping to get the word out is all she needs. Granat invited Newell to come to the next Chamber of Commerce meeting. Newell is also working on a whale/wildlife video which she plans to sell. Kiefer invited Newell to continue to provide input and ideas.

City Survey – continued The next category reviewed is “Land Use/Harbor”. It was agreed to include the following in this category: **Question 1)** Should the Depoe Bay harbor be renovated, if so to what extent? A. minor changes only (cleanup); B. moderate changes (cleanup, historical signing, etc.); C. major changes (water level walkway/docks, additional boat mooring, tables/benches, historical signing, etc.). **Question 2)** Should Depoe Bay parking be addressed, if so to what extent? A. no change; B. minor change (signing to off-highway lots, etc.); C. major changes (time limits, additional capacity for cars, RVs/trailers, etc. with shuttle service during high use periods). **Question 3)** What do you feel would improve the function of the harbor and attract more people to it? A. Attract commercial fishing and a fish market (ice plant/fish plant); B. marine attractions (aquarium); C. more city events centralized in the harbor; D. improvements to city property (docks, fish cleaning stations, etc.); E. Other. **Question 4)** Do you think the regulatory structure of Depoe Bay is inviting to those who wish to develop here? A. Yes; B. No; C. Not sure.

Review of suggested questions for the “Business” category resulted in the following questions being selected: **Question 1)** On a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being no help and 5 being very helpful) how do you think bringing commercial fishing back to Depoe Bay will help in drawing more visitors to Depoe Bay? Please circle no help 1 2 3 4 5 very helpful. **Question 2)** Would you like to see a weekly or monthly flea market in Depoe Bay? A. Yes; B. No. It was agreed to change “flea market” to “open air” market for this question. **Question 3)** There are a few retail spaces available in Depoe Bay. What kind of business do you feel would enhance our community? A. Food (grocery or ready to eat); B. Retail – nonfood; C. Fish market; D. Other. **Question 4)** Do you feel the retail businesses in Depoe Bay are open late enough in the day? A. Yes; B. No.

White commented on the strong, awful odor from the fish carcass dumpsters by the fish cleaning station. Brief discussion ensued, the Committee asked Achen to take the matter to the Harbor Commission.

Review of suggested questions for the “Events” category resulted in the following questions being selected: **Question 1)** Would you like to see an outdoor prepared food event in Depoe Bay (“A Taste of Depoe Bay”) featuring local restaurants? A. Yes; B. No. **Question 2)** What kind of off-season event do you think would succeed in Depoe Bay? **Question 3)** What type of events would you like to have more of in Depoe Bay? A. Holiday events (Christmas, New Years, Halloween, 4th of July, etc.); B. Summer events that may build more tourism; C. Winter or off-season events that would draw more people to Depoe Bay during low tourist months; D. None. Depoe Bay has enough events every year. **Question 4)** Should the city do more to bring back the 3rd of July fireworks event? A. Yes; B. No.

It was agreed that including Dunlop’s demographics questions on the survey is a good idea.

- B. Presentation- Peter Wang, College Student, Student Marketing Plan/Project Information
Wang was not present.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Event Planning –Photo Sitting with Professional Santa Claus

Achen reported that Neighbors For Kids (NFK) has approved having the event at their building, the kids could sing songs, there could be simple decorations , a tree, hot chocolate, cookies. Scheduling earlier in December would be better than later, during the daytime on a Friday and Saturday. It could be scheduled with the Chamber of Commerce tree lighting ceremony or a different weekend. People would take their own photos of their kids with Santa. There could be food donations for the Depoe Bay Food Pantry. Advertising needs to be done. Granat reported that Dorothy has spoken to him about a Santa location uptown. Achen feels NFK is better for a community type event, and she requested Committee input on location, dates, and preparing a budget to take to the City Council. It was suggested she check on dates of the Chamber tree lighting and the Oregon Coast Aquarium’s Santa Photo event for scheduling. Achen said she will need help with decorations and getting a tree. She will prepare a budget and take it to the City Council for approval. White suggested a shuttle from Worldmark.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:

Granat – Chamber of Commerce reported the Chamber is working on upcoming holiday events including the Christmas Community Potluck and the Tree Lighting. The Chamber is reviewing this year’s Salmon Bake and is happy with the good new relationships with the tribes.

White – Parks Commission reported that the September Parks Commission meeting was canceled.

Achen – Harbor Commission reported the September Harbor Commission meeting was canceled.

Kiefer- Planning Commission reported there has been minimal land use activity and September’s Planning Commission meeting was canceled. He noted that he’d requested copies of Ordinance # 259 be distributed to Committee members for discussion, but due to late hour he would not discuss this evening.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS OR CONCERNS:

Dunlop said she will be on vacation for the next couple months.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.

Michael Kiefer, Chair

Pery Murray, City Recorder