



## CITY OF LA PINE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 9, 2018

**2:00 p.m.**

La Pine City Hall

16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

Present: Connie Briese, Andrea Hine, Ann Gawith, Vicki Russell and Craig Heaton. Dan Varcoe and Stu Martinez were absent by prior arrangement.

Staff present: City Manager Cory Misley, Administrative Assistant Holly Smith and Planning Manager Melissa Bethel

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Cory Misley

4. Added Agenda Items

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

5. Approval of November 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

***Ann Gawith made a motion to approve the November 15, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Vicki Russell seconded. No objections. Unanimously approved.***

6. Public Comments

None

7. Discussion with SCYP Short and Long Term Urban Renewal Groups

- Board Member and Staff Introductions and Background

The Urban Renewal Agency introduced themselves and spoke about their history with the City of La Pine. Doug Wilson also introduced himself from the University of Oregon. The University of Oregon students introduced themselves and their areas of studies.

- Q&A

Alex (student) discussed project objectives and whether they were short or long term goals. The three objectives were a store-front loan program, developing new public areas, and renovating

current common areas. Vicki Russell stated that there are a lot of things to be done, but these three objectives will help get the community involved and excited about the future. Ann Gawith believes the store-front loan program should be a priority and Connie Briese agreed. Drew (student) asked if the URA could boil down short and long term goals to one or two sentences. Vicki Russell stated that because the City and URA itself are new, they are just now getting to the point where we have funding available to do projects. The URA is all on the same page with what they'd like to see but they don't have timelines specifically. She stated that the three objectives mentioned above were exactly what they were anticipating as far as the most important goals go. Ann Gawith stated that the design is one of the most important pieces because she feels that this will give business owners options for what they can do with the store fronts. Connie Briese agrees that design standards are very important, as well as cohesiveness between Wickiup Junction and downtown La Pine. Cory Misley added that design standards is a long process and something we'd need to get public input from and that this is something that the TGM Grant is trying to tackle. This spring and summer might be a good time to reach out to local business owners regarding their input. The students stated that it has been difficult to determine the difference between long and short term goals. Cory mentioned the survey that is currently live and how the URA can use that feedback to determine the direction URA should go and what their focus should be on. There was discussion regarding using Sisters as a comparison. Vicki said the comparison of Sisters might not be as helpful, but the process for how they came up with it would be. A student asked whether La Pine is open to more options for things, i.e. theaters and restaurants. A student asked if there's a certain goal with regard to numbers and population growth. Vicki Russell said Road to Economic Vitality through the Ford Foundation did a study on this and they found millions of dollars going out of La Pine every year because people are looking for services elsewhere. Cory Misley asked the board to explain how they feel about growth. Connie Briese stated that it's unrealistic to think that La Pine won't grow, but we still need to be responsible in how we grow – that we still maintain the "small town" feel. Ann Gawith stated that the reason most are on boards like this is because they know growth is going to happen, but they can help nudge it in the direction La Pine wants to see it go in. Andrea Hine asked how you "control grow" and Ann clarified that while you can't control it, you can shape it by codes, controlling what kind of businesses come in, etc. Vicki Russell said we need to be prepared for the growth because our housing is less expensive than Bend and that's why a lot of people are moving here. Connie Briese stated that most of what she hears as a Council member is that La Pine does not want growth and a lot of people feel it's grown too much already. Vicki Russell stated that it's a balance. She knows employees who've moved to La Pine specifically for the reason that La Pine has grown enough that it has enough amenities now to be convenient.

Doug Wilson asked the board about the importance of the ODOT property that the City could have within five years. He asked if the URA wanted the class to address it in their vision. He asked if the URA should play a proactive role in deciding what comes next with regard to that property. Ann and Vicki both felt that yes, URA should be actively involved in it and that it would be a perfect place for future entertainment or retail. The property is over 7 acres in the heart of downtown La Pine. A student asked if wealth growth was more important than population growth. Ann says we need a balance of that. She said we need jobs for the younger people so they don't have to go to

Bend, but also need the business from the retired community that live here. It's become an important piece of our economy. On the other hand, La Pine needs family wage jobs too. Vicki Russell also said it's a balance and a hard question to answer. La Pine needs to be able to provide living wage income here, but it's a combination. Craig Heaton agreed that part of providing jobs will be growth. Doug Wilson thanked the board for being willing to participate in this and he's excited to see where this is headed.

Vicki Russell stated that this showed that the URA Board has some work to do with regard to setting goals for the future, particularly timelines. She reminded the board that another important factor is leveraging funds, i.e. grant matching. Andrea Hine recommends looking at how other cities allocate their funding.

8. Discussion on FY 2016-2017 Audit Report

Cory Misley stated that there weren't any surprises, which was to be expected since the URA Board hasn't spent any money thus far due to lack of funding for projects. This will change significantly in the near future.

9. Other Matters: Only those matters properly added to this Agenda under line item No. 4

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

***Vicki Russell made a motion to appoint Connie Briese as chair. Andrea Hine seconded. No objections. Unanimously approved. Vicki Russell made a motion to appoint Ann Gawith as co-chair. Andrea Hine seconded. No objections. Unanimously approved.***

10. Public Comments

Gary Gordon with La Pine Parks and Rec District has concerns regarding Heritage Park with all the conversations regarding downtown renovations. He requested to make a presentation to the URA at their next meeting regarding where the Parks and Rec Department is headed.

11. Staff Comments

Cory Misley felt this meeting was very productive and he's excited to see the URA money start getting put into action. He believes the board needs to meet every month over the next three to four months. Holly Smith will send an email to the board on what days/times will work with regard to future meetings.

12. Board Member Comments

None

13. Adjourn Meeting

***Vicki Russell made a motion to adjourn. Craig Heaton seconded. No objections. Meeting adjourned.***

Mrs. Connie Buese

Chair

Attest

Cory Misley

Cory Misley, City Recorder

Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this notice includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered or discussed at the above-referenced meeting. This notice does not limit the ability of the City Council to consider or discuss additional subjects. This meeting is subject to cancellation without notice. The regular meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend. The public will not be permitted to attend the executive session; provided, however, representatives of the news media and designated staff will be allowed to attend the executive session. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the executive session as previously announced. No decision will be made in the executive session. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Holly Smith (541-536-1432). For deaf, hearing impaired, or speech disabled dial 541-536-1432 for TTY.