

Villages at Mt Hood

Board Meeting

April 1, 2008

The April board meeting of the Villages at Mt Hood was called to order at 4:05pm by Chair Nancy Dougherty.

The members present were: Rick Applegate, Robert Baker, Pat Buckley, Nancy Dougherty, Shirley Dueber, Judith Norval, Bob Reeves, Brigitte Romeo and Barbara Saldivar.

Guest speakers: Dan Zinzer, Director of Business and Economic Development, Clackamas County; and Doris Grolbert, Director of Library Services, Clackamas County.

Staff: Christine Roth, Staff Liaison

Treasurer's report: Balance \$791.62. Quarterly payment of \$500.00 from the County is due soon. No funds were expended this month.

Mountain Express report: Bob reported that the March ridership was up, totaling 1315 riders. With high gas prices, the ridership is expected to continue to grow.

Secretary's report: Barbara reported on the status of the Community Center. There is currently \$250,000 allocated in the 2008-09 budget by the Parks Department, with a three year time limit on its expenditure. She said grants are difficult to obtain in the current tight financial environment.

She asked for feedback and input from the community as to how the community would like to proceed with the building process. The possibilities under discussion include remodeling the current building or construction of a new building. With a remodel, rental of the facilities for community use would be possible. The limitation of this idea is building codes would require a very substantial remodel to meet current standards.

A discussion of possible fundraising ideas followed with no decisions made.

Dan Zinzer and Doris Grolbert presented information about the proposed library levy and its effects on the library systems throughout the county.

- Timber payments (\$12 million per year) from the Safe Rural Schools Act went away

- No replacement funds are forthcoming from the Congress
- Transportation, specifically road funding, was cut by \$4.5 million per year

The result of this decrease in funding is that the Board of County Commissioners proposed the creation of a countywide Library Service District. The proposed tax rate would be \$0.39 per \$1000 of assessed value. The levy would appear on the November 2008 ballot.

The effect of a Library Service District formation would be:

- Oregon Library Association level of service of 'adequate' would be achieved countywide
- County funding for libraries would be phased out over a five year time period, with all county funding to end in 2009-10 fiscal year
- The County will continue to fund Library Network Services, including interlibrary loans and computer network
- County funded libraries in Hoodland, Oak Lodge, and Clackamas Town Center will be merged into other libraries. The Hoodland Library would become a branch of the Sandy Library under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County and the City of Sandy.

Doris explained how the library services in unincorporated areas would occur. It is a mix of size of area and population allocated to the area. Board members closely questioned her about whether this was a fair representation of population served, how much funding is collected in the area and how much funding would be returned to the area; what would the IGA with Sandy include and other details.

The discussion will continue with a meeting between Doris and three Board members, Judith Norval, Shirley Dueber and Bob Reeves. They will report back to the Board as the discussion continues.

Topics for discussion may include:

- Possibility of forming a Library District for the mountain area
- Returning more of the tax dollars collected to the community to be used in support of local services
- Redrawing the service area to be served
- Effect of increased taxes on local citizens

After continued discussion, the Board decided to send a letter to the City of Sandy requesting inclusion in a discussion and continued negotiations about library services with the City.

Dave Lythgoe asked why the \$170,000 collected in taxes couldn't be used in cooperation with the Oregon Trail School District to provide joint use facilities.

Doris explained that public libraries operate with different standards and procedures than school libraries. Allowing the public unrestricted access to the library while school is in session and children are present presents a security issue for the school district. Coordination of hours and services are also difficult. Collections of materials are each designed for different needs and frequently don't mix well.

Doris offered to coordinate the discussions between the City of Sandy and the Villages Board. The Board accepted the offer.

The Board asked Dan and Doris what issues could be shaped in the IGA with Sandy. Dan suggested negotiations about boundaries, amount of funding returned to the Hoodland Library, hours, staffing, content and size of collection materials were possible topics.

Work session topics discussion: Topics for future work sessions are to include a list of talking points for the Library District, work plans for the remainder of 2008, discussion of signage and design standards with John Borge, forum to include candidates for Board of County Commissioners.

Old Business: A letter from Linda Bell regarding tourism and TAP approval was read into the record. Rick objected to the contents of the letter saying there needed to be additional discussion to clarify terms of agreement and responsibilities between the TAP.

After additional discussion of tourism related issues, the Board decided to postpone further discussion of tourism issues until the April work session and make any decisions at the May Board meeting.

Motion: by Rick Applegate to have more community involvement by the Villages Board into how tourism tax dollars are spent in the area. **Seconded** by Robert Baker.

Vote yes Applegate, Baker, Norval, Buckley, Dougherty

No Dueber, Reeves, Saldivar, Romeo

Results: yes 5, no 4, motion passes.

Public Participation: George Wilson asked Dan Zinzer several questions about the Cedar Ridge property sale. Dan explained the following points:

- Clackamas County was approached by the Western Rivers Conservancy

about purchasing the southernmost section of the property for salmon protection efforts.

- This is a three year contract sale with the first portion paid, second part due in August 2008 and final payment due in October 2009
- There is an appraisal, signed contract with Western Rivers Conservancy
- Western Rivers Conservancy sold the property to BLM for a 3% profit
- If additional property is sold, the payoff will be accelerated
- Cedar Ridge has two sections, south portion going to Bureau of Land Management; north portion still for sale and going for private development
- No current offers on north portion as far as Dan Zinzer know
- \$250,000 of sale will be dedicated to community projects, likely the Community Center
- Remainder of sale proceeds will go into General Fund to spent a Board of County Commissioners recommend

Sandy Palmer informed the meeting about her plans to move forward with visitor information through her business Wy'east Book Shoppe and Art Gallery. She asked for the support of the Villages Board and explained how she intended to integrate the information into her existing business. She is working with her landlord to make public restrooms available. Sandy also requested support from the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department for material and publicity. Chris Roth will ask TCA to contact Sandy.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Roth
Temporary interim Recording Secretary