

Business & Ag

10th Street businesses hold round table



Gina K. Swartz / The Baker County Press

A group of business owners from 10th Street gathered last week to discuss a variety of topics that affect their area.

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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Several 10th Street businesses were represented at the most recent round-table discussion to address concerns and ideas of ways to improve the business district.

In attendance at this meeting were Denzil Robbins from Robbins Farm Equipment, Dick Ghirst and Austin Coates from The Eagles on H Street, Rob Gaslin from St. Alphonsus, Dr. Lloyd Nelson who has a Chiropractic Clinic on 10th Street, Kevin Cornelius a contractor for Natural Structures, Debi Bainter, Executive Director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, Michelle Owen, Baker City Public Works Director and Holly Kerns, Baker County Planning Director.

As the meeting began Debi Bainter advised, “Snail mail notes to all business owners for the October meeting were sent out using property owner info from County website. Email reminders were sent of the meeting, personal invitations to the meeting by myself and others going to the businesses, press releases were done, and the information was posted on Facebook and in the Chamber enews.”

As the discussion began, Bainter explained that the focus needed to be on priorities the group needed to identify so that a longer term plan could be devised and after the first of the year focus could be made on securing funding for those projects.

She brought along notes from previous meetings outlining topics that had been discussed already.

Bainter also informed the group that she and Jeff Nelson of the Small Business Development Center, who was not present at this meeting, had been around to service organizations to make them aware of potential plans and gain support including possible future financial contributions specifically the Kiwanas, the Lions, and the Rotary who also gave input on possibly projects not previously addressed at round-table meetings including

plans for a walking path, an extension of the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway in essence be rerouted so as not to go past the Powder River Correctional Facility and the inclusion of a four way stop light at the intersection of 10th and Pocahontas.

The addition of sidewalks on portions of 10th Street lacking them was of large concern, as was citing the safety of students utilizing the area during lunchtime and those who walk to access services at places such as the Department of Human Services.

The question was raised why these meetings were being held in the first place and Bainter responded saying, “We have had a lot of pedestrian and bicycle issues on 10th Street—especially the pedestrians because we don’t have good sidewalks. It is of concern to have strollers, wheelchairs and others in the street and we are working with the school too because of the number of students accessing areas that don’t have those sidewalks at lunch time.”

Dick Ghirst suggested the addition of rapid flashing lights to indicate that someone wanted to cross the street because as he noted, “We see students going to the bowling alley, crossing 10th street, rapid flashing lights would warn drivers someone is crossing the street and if someone is passing in the other lane they don’t always see or notice. I actually saw that the other day and thought some kids were going to get hit.”

Other issues mentioned were pedestrians crossing at the intersection of 10th Street and Broadway. That is a particularly unusual intersection and extremely dangerous for pedestrians crossing there.

The suggestion of some type of barrier to discourage crossing at that particular spot has been made with the intention of getting those intending to cross there move down the street to a safer place.

It was mentioned that even with a barrier of some sort to discourage crossing at that spot, there would be those that would simply do it anyway and “jump

or climb over” any barrier erected.

The intersection of 10th Street and Pocahontas/Hughes Lane was a hot issue.

“If going straight on through the intersection to head out to Haines, many people speed up and are going way too fast by the time they hit that intersection,” said Denzil Robbins of Robbins Farm Equipment.

Several suggestions were made to address that issue such as putting up a ‘what’s your speed’ sign to help make drivers aware of how fast they are going, installing a rapid flashing light at the intersection and possibly making the intersection a four way stop.

The group also mentioned the possibility of dropping the speed limit from 35, as it is currently from approximately H Street, and keeping it 30 until after that particular intersection.

Many other ideas floated around the table including Trolley stop turnouts—especially at the Health Department and hospital, eliminating on-street parking on 10th Street north of H Street, adding a rapid flashing beacon at 10th Street and H Street as this will naturally slow traffic as they are heading north toward highway 30 and the Pocahontas/Hughes Lane 10th street intersection, and to make sure 10th Street has strong street lights like Main Street and Resort to deter dangerous behavior.

Also noted was the potential need for traffic control at D and 10th Street. The D street improvement was a State project even though the road was owned by the City because D Street was considered a Campbell Street reliever. There is potential to see some flexibility in funding for a traffic light at D and 10th because of the changes that have occurred at that corner since the improvements.

The group agreed to consider a rapid flashing beacon at this corner in lieu of an actual stop light as well.

The group also mentioned the potential for 11th Street Development to

offset 10th and H Streets. There are plans in the works to extend the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway to the YMCA and to Phase in the bike path from H and 13th/Midway to 17th and 17th to Auburn.

Rob Gaslin from St. Alphonsus said that he really felt it was important to provide a safe walking environment for the women residing at Recovery Village with their children as they do walk a lot to appointments etc.

One thing was clear: Business owners and representatives were strongly against any idea that would include changing 10th Street to a similar setup as on Campbell Street.

Many felt by taking that road from four lanes to two with the addition of a turn lane and bike lanes ruined that road and do not want to see a similar plan considered as way to ease some of the traffic and pedestrian concerns.

As the meeting neared the end, Michelle Owen, City Public Works Director asked those in attendance to review the plans and decide what needed to be noted as priorities. She suggested creating a mission statement as a way to show a unified community, thus adding to the possibility of successfulness of grant options, and to set a time line in which to have final plans in place for example by January 1, 2016.

Holly Kerns, planning Director advised from a planning standpoint it was important to get ideas rated and outlined so plans could be developed and the projects could be moved into an action plan that would put them on track to begin being completed. It was agreed that a short survey would be created and sent to land owners.

Results of the survey are expected to be reviewed at the next meeting November 12.

In addition to a survey being distributed, Bainter also suggested offering small meetings for owners and businesses spanning only couple blocks of 10th Street at a time, so they can focus on just the area around their business and offer additional suggestions or comments.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, October 9, 2015 — Eastern Oregon
Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Export sales continue to be slow. Retail/Stable demand for all types of hay from Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wasco counties continues to be good. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices. Some producers are having their water rights cut off due to the drought.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square, Good	500 150.00-150.00	150.00
Oat Straw — Large Square, Utility	400 45.00-45.00	45.00

Last week:

Meadow Grass — Small Square, Good	34 175.00-180.00	179.41
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USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 1587

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 257.00 - 292.00	Top 296.00
400-500#	Bulk 191.00 - 235.00	Top 236.00
500-600#	Bulk 180.00 - 214.00	Top 221.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 197.00 - 225.00	Top 233.50
400-500#	Bulk 175.00 - 213.00	Top 214.00
500-600#	Bulk 156.00 - 184.00	Top 187.25

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 162.00 - 188.00	Top 189.00
700-800#	Bulk 155.00 - 169.50	Top 170.00
800-900#	Bulk 153.00 - 165.00	Top 166.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 143.00 - 152.00	Top 154.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 161.00 - 171.00	Top 172.00
700-800#	Bulk 138.00 - 157.00	Top 163.00
800-900#	Bulk 149.00 - 154.00	Top 156.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 138.00 - 151.00	Top 152.00

Thin Shelly Cows	53.00 - 67.00
Butcher Cows	69.00 - 82.00
Butcher Bulls	81.00 - 99.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	111.00 - 138.00
Stock Cows -	1025.00 - 1460.00

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir is	\$415.00/mbf
White fir is	\$365.00/mbf
Ponderosa Pine is brought sold on diameter splits	
6 to 11 inch dib	\$300 to \$310/MBF
12 to 17 inch dib	\$350 to \$375/MBF
18 to 23 inch dib	\$400 to \$430/MBF
24 inch plus dib	\$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.

MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.

People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1168.50

Silver: \$15.91

Platinum: \$989.50

Palladium: \$682.70

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$384.50/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$519.00/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$914.00/bu/USD
Oats:	\$232.00 bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$12.60/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$478.50 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$137.20/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$186.80/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$67.58/lb./USD

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