

General Council briefed on economic development

Titu Asghar details plans in executive session

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Economic Development Director Titu Asghar briefed General Council on Tribal economic development plans during a 20-minute executive session on Sunday, May 6, at the Tribal Community Center.

Because the briefing was held in executive session, Smoke Signals cannot report the details of the briefing.

Asghar joined the Tribe on Jan. 17, 2011, and is now in charge of Tribal commercial real estate as well as helping plan the Tribe's future economic development.

Tribal members interested in finding out more about Tribal economic development plans should contact Economic Development Administrative Assistant Jilene Mercier at 503-879-1315 or jilene.mercier@grandronde.org to schedule an appointment or phone call.

In other actions, it was announced that the next General Council meeting for Tribal Council nominations will be held 11 a.m. Sunday, June 24, in the Tribal Community Center.

The next regular General Council meeting will be held after the summer break at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Tribal Community Center.

Tribal Elders Gene LaBonte and Ed Larsen and Tribal spouse Liz Leno won the \$50 door prizes and Tribal Elder Dorothy Shortt won the \$100 door prize.

Community Input meeting

At 1 p.m. Sunday following the General Council meeting, the Tribe held its annual Community Membership Input Meeting in the gym in Grand Ronde.

Forty-two people attended, in-

cluding 12 assigned staff and Tribal Council members Steve Bobb Sr., Chris Mercier and Toby McClary.

Bobb welcomed attendees and then there was a brief PowerPoint presentation with an overview of Tribal planning and development projects. Planning & Grants Manager Kim Rogers requested comments and suggestions on the Tribe's Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant program and projects and on the Tribe's Administration for Native Americans grants, including the language immersion program.

The PowerPoint led into an open house session at eight topic tables. Each table had a color poster with photos, plan drawings and text.

Tribal Police Officer Jake McKnight staffed the Police Department table and fielded questions on the development of the department. Most questions had to do with the schedule.

Rogers collected comments, mostly supportive, on transit services, especially on the Tribe's application to help fund a route to Lincoln City.

Behavioral Health Director Kelly Nelson and Tribal Engineer Jesse White answered questions on the women's transitional living center development project. Most comments were suggestions to include spiritual counseling.

Cultural Resources Program Manager Kathy Cole took comments on the project of converting the majority of the Grand Ronde school into a Tribal museum. Comments focused on cultural activities, representative artifacts from various family groups and space for Native artisans/vendors.

Education Department Manager April Campbell took comments on recreation plans. Most dealt with youth, but some with Elders. These included support for swimming, biking, hiking, crafts, culinary arts,



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Tribal Economic Development Director Titu Asghar briefs the General Membership on Tribal economic development plans and projects during an executive session held Sunday, May 6, in the Tribal Community Center.

fitness, sports and events.

Natural Resources Manager Michael Wilson collected many positive comments on updating the Natural Resources 10-Year Management Plan and collected survey information.

Assistant Health Director Allyson Lecatsas provided information and took comments on the Secondary Payor Conversion project that is encouraging members to first use Medicaid and spousal health insurance before using the Skookum Health Plan. Skookum was intended to be the secondary option, but its increased use as the primary source by many members has been a large part of the Tribe's rising health care costs.

There was also an "other" com-

ments table where a wide variety of opinions were shared, including on drug prevention activities to occupy youth, including community gardening and efforts to involve Elders to be active. Public Works Director John Mercier and Executive Health Services Director Mark Johnston fielded those comments and suggestions, which also included comments on casino operations, per capita and other topics.

The meeting ended about 2:45 p.m. with a series of drawings for three Pendleton mugs, four \$25 Shell gift certificates and a Tribal logo blanket. ■

Includes information from Tribal Planning & Grants Manager Kim Rogers.

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- **Ceremonial Hunt Board** meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- **Cultural Trust Board** meets at 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Modular No. 2. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: TBD.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Jon George.
- **Elders' Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **Rodeo Special Event Board** meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Social Services Committee** meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Jenny Sanchez.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 4 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dakota Whitecloud.

Chinuk Wawa classes offered

The Tribe's Cultural Education Department offers adult Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in Room 207 of the Tribal Education Building. Language classes can be taken for college credit or for fun. For more information, call 503-879-2249 or 503-437-4599. ■



Grand Ronde Dental Clinic

Eric Webster DMD Myron Peng DDS Erin Lange DDS

Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri

8 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Thursday 9:30 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Closed for lunch 12:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Emergency Hour: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8 A.M. Thurs 9:30 A.M.



Please call for more information about Emergency times
We now offer Cleaning appointments 5 days a week

503-879-2020