

Citizens participate in review of Urban Growth Boundary choices

The citizens of the City of Banks were lead in a community exercise at a Community Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Review meeting, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on April 29, in the Banks Elementary School cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting was to review UGB zoning alternatives.

Michael Hoffmann, a Consultant from CH2M Hill gave a brief presentation prior to guiding the audience through an interactive community activity.

In 2004 the City of Banks de-

veloped a 20 year population forecast. According to that forecast, a residential land use analysis and an employment land needs analysis were conducted. Based on those data, an UGB expansion analysis was conducted in 2009, coming up with a total of 248 acres needed for that expansion.

The City of Banks council approved a preferred UGB expansion alternative and the creation of a draft zoning map has been completed. Hoffmann made it clear that this is not the

“formal” map.

Using the information provided for the expansion project with the analysis completed, the city would need 57.1 acres of low density single family homes (6 units/acre); 57 acres single family homes (8 units/acre), 25.9 acres of high density single family homes (10 units/acre), 6.1 acres of multi-family homes (17 units/acre); 24 acres high density multi-family homes (24 units/acre); 6.1 acres of mixed use residential-commercial (10 units/acre);

12 acres of commercial and 81.6 acres of industrial land.

After the presentation, the audience was provided with a preferred zoning map, a blank UGB zoning map and cut-outs of zoning districts. The activity was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle of your preferred City of Banks. The audience worked in small groups to design each group’s dream expansion project. Upon completion of the exercise, a spokesperson from each group gave a presentation on their layout.

There was a lot of positive energy as each group discussed why and how they came up with their decisions on the future expansion project.

Citizens are urged to get involved in upcoming opportunities. Forms are available at City Hall for public comment, or comments can be made at the city web site <http://www.cityofbanks.org/>. A joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting will be held Monday, May 10 and citizens are urged to participate.

New yellow arrows may confuse drivers

Washington County’s Department of Land Use and Transportation is supervising the installation of 372 bimodal Flashing Yellow Arrows (FYAs) at 174 key intersections in the county. A new, short video has been posted on the county’s website at <http://www.youtube.com/WashingtonCntyOregon>. It takes viewers inside a moving vehicle to show what to look for from the driver’s point of view – oncoming traffic, pedestrians, bikes, etc.

Signal Construction Group, LLC of Woodburn is installing the bimodal flashing yellow arrows with funding provided by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). All work is scheduled to be completed by June 30, at a total project cost of \$485,000.

Engineer Stacy Shetler explained that the video should help drivers use FYAs safely.

“If you are waiting to turn left,” Stacy explained, “and you see a flashing yellow left-turn arrow, it means turns are permitted, but first you must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Before entering the intersection, look left and look straight ahead. Is there any oncoming traffic? Any pedestri-

ans? Any bicyclists?? If not, be cautious, go ahead and make your left turn. After it flashes, the flashing yellow left-turn arrow then becomes the better-known steady yellow left-turn arrow. The steady yellow left-turn arrow means what it has always meant: stop, if you can do so safely.”

County Traffic Engineer Tom Tushner says, “The ARRA

funds, which are part of the federal economic stimulus program, that were used for this project made it possible for the County to accelerate the installation of FYAs, improving the flow and reducing the delay at traffic signals in Washington County.”

For more information, see luttraffic@co.washington.or.us

Council gives street lights to PGE

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ed to the Banks Budget Committee.

Council approved ownership transfer of Option B Street lights to Portland General Electric. PGE has offered to purchase the streetlights owned by the city and assume ownership of all streetlights in Banks. The increased cost of operat-

ing streetlights in Banks under PGE’s proposed plan would be 793.10 per month.

Councilors Brian Biehl and Christy Greagor were appointed to a subcommittee for the city manager performance review.

The next city council meeting will be at Banks City Hall on May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Friends of the Banks Public Library Annual Plant and Book Sale



Fri, May 7th 3 pm - 7 pm

Sat, May 8th 9 am - 3 pm

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