

Banks Council gets input on Urban Growth Boundary at hearing

by Jodi Boylan

The February 8, Banks City Council meeting was held in the Banks School District Boardroom to accommodate the Public Hearing on the Part 1, Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansion – Goal 14; Part II, Transportation System Plan (TSP) – Goal 12; and Part III, Recreational Needs – Goal 8.

Council heard from City Planner K.J. Won, who shared some background on the project. He explained that this project has been in the works for two years, that the city received a transportation plan in 2008 and has held various work programs, including community meetings, to develop the plan that was submitted to council.

During the Part I testimony, Anne Debaunt, from the Department of Land Conservation and Development, said that her agency is in support of Part I. David Noren, an attorney representing Banks Lumber Company, commented that they would like to see more industrial land allocated east of the

mill, which would allow for more jobs in the future.

Council then heard from James Crawford, a former resident/land owner in Banks, who said he has offered to donate land to the school district and that his offer is still good. Jim Spickerman, an attorney who represents Portland Western Railroad was the last to speak on Part I. Spickerman voiced his concern about 5/8 of a mile of residential land abutting the railroad which, he said, creates a noise issue, and is dangerous, with no good east-west railroad crossing.

Mayor John Kinsky closed Part I and opened Part II, The Transportation Plan (TSP) – Goal 12. Debaunt again expressed support of the plan. David Duyck, President of Sunset Park, spoke of the need to expand the park for activities including baseball, soccer, a race track, boy scout and chamber events. The park is running out of room, Duyck said, and with the proposed TSP, the park would be blocked in. At the conclusion of his testimony, the mayor closed the

hearing.

When the hearing for Part III, Recreational Needs, Goal 8, started, Debaunt said she was concerned that it is not justified. Don Kilgras, President of Quail Valley Golf Course, spoke in support of the plan and being brought into the city, saying he is committed to the process. Kilgras said that the course has always been a part of Banks. The last speaker was Noren, who did not support the plan. At the conclusion of all three sections of the hearing, Council discussed the highlights, then adopted the Planning Commission's recommendation by a 4-2 vote.

When the regular business meeting got underway, the Mayor presented a certificate of appreciation to Stevie Freeman-Montes in recognition of her service to the City of Banks for developing the Banks Sustainability Strategy as the Community Development Sustainability Analyst.

March 14 - 20 has been declared Banks Fix-A-Leak Week by Mayor Kinsky, who noted that Banks has a Water Con-

servation Plan that encourages the wise use and conservation of the city's water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program, household leaks account for nearly one trillion gallons of water wasted in the United States each year. An American household can waste, on average, 10,000 gallons of water every year due to running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household leaks. Malmedal Plumbing and Five-Star Plumbing, both local plumbing companies, also support and encourage the conservation of water. Both companies are offering to provide leak repair plumbing services to citizens of Banks with the first half-hour of service being donated free during a special week set aside for proactive water conservation measures.

City Manager Jim Hough's report included the following:

- The city is working with Washington County LUT to draft an agreement for the new portion of Banks Road in order to install a crosswalk.

- Metro's Chief Economist has asked the city to provide information that will enhance the MetroScope algorithm for population, employment and transportation. The information will be compiled by Washington

County LUT and forwarded to Metro to make the required population projections for the next few decades.

- The city will be recognized for the Trees for All Community Stream Planting Challenge, on February 24, as part of the Clean Water Services Business Case for Sustainability presentation at Tualatin Valley Water District Headquarters.

- The City of Banks will conduct a children's coloring contest in conjunction with National Drinking Water Week (May 1-7). The contest will be advertised in the April water bill. Entries will be due by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

- A management team for the Library & Public Works Building Project has been formed and is meeting regularly to discuss the city's plans to have the two separate projects be bid to the same contractor under a "Design-Build" concept. Hough proposes, based on a number of items, to continue the project management team approach, and get Brett Laurila, of BKL/A working, in anticipation of Council approval of the proposal at the March 8 City Council Meeting.

- The city continues to coordinate with the fiber optic company that serves Alaska in hopes that the company can reach an agreement with Frontier to bring high speed internet to Banks. If that works out, the

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