

Drain Chamber of Commerce
Meeting 2/26/2024

Members in Attendance: Bonnie Pyles, Mary Lou Garrett, Myndee Ferrill, Ame Beard

Called to Order 6:00

- I. Introductions and turned to Admin Stevens
- II. Stevens asked for introductions and businesses represented.
- III. Americorp Rare program. National program through the University of Oregon. Working with Drain through the end of this year
- IV. Economic development fund. One business in the room has the loan, there is another business that is currently working on obtaining that loan.
 - a. Two options to get this loan. The CCD for the business loan or directly to the City of Drain. Questioned if this was for new or established businesses. Stevens said both are available.
- V. The City of Drain has now linked the businesses that have both registered and those that have been identified within house.
- VI. Covered Bridge: The bridge needs to be assessed again and Katie will work to identify grants available and if she returns the following year this will be one of her main programs to write grants and get the bridge restored.
 - a. Question: will the people need to offset or match requirements?
 - b. Answer: we will know as we find grants and what they require. Katie says that 15 or 20% is what she has seen since. If the Chamber would like to community fundraise that always helps grants.
 - c. Follow Up Question: Should we start raising funds now or wait?
 - d. Answer: wait until we hear back.
- VII. Volunteer management binder. Katie speaking to this topic.
 - a. In the event of emergency, they can look into the binder to see who is potentially available to give time, money, equipment, etc.
 - b. The first volunteer: Repairing restoration. Not on the calendar yet. Late may or early June. Umpqua. Phoenix youth core. Ivy and black berry pull.
 - i. Question: Is there a list of people who would need assistance first?
 - ii. Answer: The city has a list of those who have oxygen that they use for times there are power outages. However, they have not thought of looking at having it as an emergency request list as well. Harold and Stevens have been talking about getting a generator available for Civic Center should it be needed.
- VIII. An economic development plan is necessary. Set's guidance for the community. They are looking for a commitment for a business or non-profit to use as a resource and work through.
 - a. Already joined Oregon Mainstreet at Tier 1. Haven't gone any farther.
 - b. Katie is also here to try to help bridge that gap and get that program going.
 - c. There is money available, but there has to be an organization or committee to be attending and working toward this and actively 10 people.
 - i. Question: Should it be the chamber or a subcommittee?
 - ii. Answer: It can be, but it needs to be something that it can filter through.
 - iii. Q: What does Tier 2 look like
 - iv. A: Start having meeting. Figure out what you want your downtown to look like. Referencing the paper handed out. There are examples in this form, and it is an

area to start talking about and looking at. City hall being re-built could be the code of what the citizens would like to have the town represented.

- v. Q: How do we enforce current rules? Has something changed?
- vi. A: Opportunities to apply for grants, incentivize owners or new owners. New owners have to bring up to code. Perhaps the city can reimburse some of the businesses. Many of the city ordinances have not been updated and need to be addressed. Are there buildings that you're thinking of? Buildings that are on a stand still can be seen in the community with partial repairs or beginning stages of compliance.

- d. An idea was proposed for creating an affordable program to help them clean up or get to code by paying partial or half of the expenses.
- e. Oregon main street program is online, and you can see her cities that have done this in the past.

IX. Pyles asked if there was anyone that would like to be part of the OMSP. Rusty Savage would like to a part in this.

- a. Stevens suggested having the Yoncalla and drain communities work together on this.
- b. The buildings downtown have had some issues they have enforced codes on, and we may see some changes in those businesses.
 - i. Q: Is the plan to build where the old city hall was
 - ii. A: Yes
 - iii. Q: What will the building look like?
 - iv. A: If we could get the OMS going then we could potentially have a code. As of now it will be up to the city.
 - v. Q: Is the planning for the building already started?
 - vi. A: NO. We are waiting to hear from Douglas County Sherriff to see the amount of square footage they need and if they have any funds to go toward this.
 - vii. Q: Oregon main Street how long does it take to get going.
 - viii. A: Unknown at this time. Ford foundation is well versed with them. Coos county has a paid full time Oregon main street organizer. If we had something similar it would help. Katie is going to work with them at this time.
 - ix. Q: will it include lamp posts
 - x. A: Do we skip ahead and get those done or do we wait until we have OMS to see if it aligns with that program and the community involvement.
 - xi. Q: It's going to be underground, and it will be a bigger project.
 - xii. A: If we wait, we can see what is out there and what we can get. Lampposts are on the list, and we are going to wait and see what we can get.

X. Lamppost's around 1,000 a piece for the casing and then buying the globe and having the entire electrical put in. 1500 a piece was the estimate for all the pieces associated with a light post.

- a. Ame Beard: Sooner the better and it might bolster enthusiasm.
- b. Stevens has three businesses willing to buy lamp posts.
- c. Harold the biggest logistics is going to be the money it takes to get electricity to them.
- d. Solar only rates at 10% of their usage during the summertime. The efficiency of panels has increased. In order for solar to be viable you'd have to have a large panel. If it's designed into the hood of the lamp posts.
- e. The lamppost itself is more ornamental than the need for lighting. So, if you don't have as much lighting it may not be necessary.
- f. Stevens suggested pricing it and out and seeing if there are some ideas.

- g. Charles Ferrill mentioned that if the city is looking for solar for mood lighting, then you can make it happen, but if you are looking for usage then solar won't cut it.
- h. Stevens will send information regarding lamp posts to Shayna Fontana
- i. Shayna Fontayna would like to look into the traditional power options as well and make a comparison.
- j. Katie pointed out that there a lot of solar grants out there for this project.
- k. EV stations, lots of grants available. Beard asked about the corner diagonally across from the
 - i. Q: Are those grants available for businesses?
 - ii. A: Ferrill: Tesla says that there is a specific program for wineries and such. There are no tesla stations on the west coast. Any kind of level two charging is a waste of infrastructure. So, level three charging is necessary. Don't invest in level two charging. Go to level three according to Ferrill.
 - iii. Stevens: old notes saying that the city used to do the judging. Law enforcement and fire department would like to do the judging. The council agreed they would like the city to take it on.
- XI. Christmas light contest: City will take on the judging of light contest.
- XII. Beard: How to promote businesses at the freeway off ramp by having signage. Perhaps the business license fees going toward those that include gas, food, etc. for businesses at this exit.
- XIII. Stevens is meeting with ODOT Thursday, and she will ask about that.
- XIV. Beard: The money for business licenses, what does that go toward?
 - a. A: At this time, it is in the general fund. Working to replace Christmas decorations.
 - b. Q: So, the city can buy the lights for the Christmas tree? It's been 50 to 60 dollars a year in lights.
 - c. A: Harold bought for last year.
 - d. Q: The walking map of businesses. Can the business fee's go toward that?
 - e. A: Pyles explained what the business map was, and Stevens suggested going together on this with Yoncalla and potentially Elkton. Charm bracelets to sell and have them on walking map so they could be collected.
 - f. Q: 2,000 to create it at this time. Then knowing how many needs printed. It could be less but would have to be less detailed.
- XV. Pyles said that postcards for the town were brought up to look into for sales.
- XVI. Stevens said that they are looking into designing a larger entry to allow for a section that the Chamber could put their items for community or passersby. Post cards could reside there.
- XVII. Historical signs in front of buildings are informational. Uniformity of informational stations so that people could use the walking map or other things to draw attention to history.
 - a. Stevens said that Lori just got a grant for something similar, and we could potentially look into getting a similar grant.
- XVIII. Park Host: The city council voted no to the park host, and it was denied. If the community members want to revisit the park host.
 - a. Stevens looked into the park's host and spoke to the attorney about it. Landlord/tenant contract. Lots of legalities around it so that you can "evict" them should it come to that. The council felt that 5 cameras would be more secure than a park host.
 - b. Pyles: the atmosphere would change should a park host be present and be able to form some relationships.
 - c. Fontayna said it's also about welcoming and having amenities and equipment available more often.

- d. Stevens did clarify that if a park host were to occur. The park host would be excluded by Oregon parks and rec. funding.
 - e. Katie: the park plan in general. Grant due April 1st. main items in park. Splash pad, larger pavilion, concrete sidewalks near school end so that it is more accessible, sidewalks along the playground area and around so a wheelchair will be accessible. Seating tables and chairs. Adding new grills and tables/chairs. concrete chess table. Permanent corn hole. Whole Park will be ADA accessible. Rubber safety tiles for the park rather than gravel. Rock wall.
 - f. If we revisit the park host, the site map does have a spot that a park host could be placed.
- XIX. A call for any wrap up questions was made to the community.
- a. Yoncalla asked a wrap up questions about stop signs.
 - b. According to Stevens, ODOT is proposing to remove the stop sign for a temporary amount of time for a trial basis. And if it does not work, they want the option to put in a four way stop.
 - c. Myndee Ferrill commented that that means if they remove it, they will get in more accidents.
 - d. Stevens let the chamber know that no decisions are made yet.
- XX. Bonnie Pyles introduced Yoncalla Chamber. Ed Mussen from the Chamber of Commerce in Yoncalla.
- a. They have some expenses with the craft fair, fourth of July parade. 1600 income, 1100 in expenses. Seeing if we can combine to have a name change or see if we could have a plan for combining resources and help for one another.
 - i. Craft Fair Spring and Holiday
 - ii. Fourth of July Parade
 - iii. Christmas Events
 - iv. The craft fair is at the community center, and they have donated the building, so they haven't had to pay, but they included the fee as it is a year-to-year decision by the community.
 - v. They do not have a 501 3C.
 - vi. Income: Douglas electric and city of Yoncalla 1590 in donations. Currently they have 4300\$
 - vii. They meet the first Saturday of each month.
 - viii. North Douglas Chamber with more working members. Rice hill doesn't have a chamber, it has been combined with Yoncalla.
 - ix. Does Elkton have a chamber? Yoncalla/Drain Chamber with inclusion for Rice Hill because they've always been a part of the Chamber.
 - x. One of the board members has some state understanding and resources.
 - xi. Special Meeting today after this meeting today.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14