

WEEKLY BUSINESS SESSION – March 18, 2020

9:00 a.m. – Anne G. Basker Auditorium
600 N.W. Sixth Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Present: Darin J. Fowler, Chair; Lily N. Morgan, Commissioner (via phone); (Daniel E. DeYoung was unavailable); Trish Paredes, Recorder

These are meeting minutes only. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words.

Pursuant to notice through the media and in conformance with the Public Meeting Law, Darin J. Fowler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Items discussed were as follows:

1. PUBLIC HEARING: Josephine County completed a 2016 Community Development Block Grant from the Oregon Business Development Department for the Food & Friends Senior Resource Center

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to postpone this public hearing to a future date due to the Coronavirus and State Mandates not allowing public attendance at the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fowler. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes and Commissioner Fowler – yes

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS IN CONSIDERATION OF:

BOARD DECISIONS UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS WERE MADE AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT WAS RECEIVED

a. Approval of Operating Agreement between Josephine County and Aramark Correctional Services, LLC for Food Service for County Inmates, Staff and Visitors at the Josephine County Correctional Facilities (One original Agreement filed with the County Clerk and one original Agreement returned to Sheriff's Office)

Commissioner Fowler stated that this Aramark contract is for food service for county inmates, staff and visitors at the correctional facility. This contract is for three-years which will reduce the meals 10 cents per meal resulting in a savings of \$20,000 in the first year. Commissioner Morgan thanked Lt. Vincent for his efforts in procuring the best prices for meals (a necessary function through Josephine County Correctional Facilities).

b. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Josephine County and the State of Oregon, by and through its Department of Transportation, for the US 199 Expressway Upgrades Segment 3 (One original MOU returned to Public Works for full execution)

Commissioner Fowler explained that the US 199 Expressway projects address vehicular and pedestrian safety, and operational deficiencies along the US 199 Expressway between Tussey Lane to Midway Avenue. Due to lack of funding and support, Segment 3 — Allen Creek Road to Tussey Lane improvements of the project were not completed. The intent of this MOU is to demonstrate a commitment to pursue a path forward for Segment 3 — Allen Creek Road to Tussey Lane improvements for the US 199 Expressway. It is the intent of State, City, and County to document in this MOU, the coordinated efforts regarding the US 199 Expressway, Segment 3 improvements.

c. Approval of Josephine County Transit Purchase Order No. 2020-0310 for the Purchase of one Class E Vehicle to be used for Demand Response Service (One original PO filed with the County Clerk and one original PO returned to Transit)

Commissioner Fowler reported that this Purchase Order is for a replacement vehicle for one that is beyond its defined useful life by the Federal Transit Administration. He further explained that this new vehicle will be used for demand response service to transport qualified elderly and disabled passengers within the defined service area. The funds have been allocated from an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) agreement #32836, combined with Special Transportation Improvement Funds which cover 89.73% of the vehicle cost. This vehicle was selected with the ODOT State Price agreement through the lowest cost bid. The Vehicle costs \$82,098, the grant portion covers \$73,666 of the \$82,098. The local portion of \$8,431 will be provided by eligible state matching funds.

3. REQUESTS/COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: (Each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak)

Becky Egli submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 1**).
Christie Nelson submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 2**).
Helena Avina submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 3**).
Pat Warren submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 4**).
Allee Gustafson submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 5**).
Alyssa C. WarrenWood submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 6**).
Jeremy WarrenWood submitted comments via email (**Exhibit 7**).

4. BOARD MAY REVIEW PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

The Board addressed public comments.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(a)

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve Operating Agreement between Josephine County and Aramark Correctional Services, LLC for Food Service for County Inmates, Staff and Visitors at the Josephine County Correctional Facilities, seconded by Commissioner Fowler. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes and Commissioner Fowler – yes.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(b)

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Josephine County and the State of Oregon, by and through its Department of Transportation, for the US 199 Expressway Upgrades Segment 3, seconded by Commissioner Fowler. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes and Commissioner Fowler – yes.

Board Discussion and Action – Agenda Item 2(c)

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve Josephine County Transit Purchase Order No. 2020-0310 for the Purchase of one Class E Vehicle to be used for Demand Response Service, seconded by Commissioner Fowler. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes and Commissioner Fowler – yes.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR:**a. Minutes (Draft minutes are available for viewing in the Board's Office)**

General Discussion – March 10, 2020

Legal Counsel Update – March 10, 2020

Execution Session (open session) – March 11, 2020

Weekly Business Session – March 11, 2020

County Administration Workshop – March 12, 2020

b. Economic Development Request for the 2020 Wild Rogue Balloon & Kite Festival (One original Economic Development Request returned to Finance)**Board Discussion and Action:**

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar Agenda Items 5(a) through 5(b) as listed, seconded by Commissioner Fowler. Upon roll call vote, motion passed 2-0; Commissioner Morgan – yes and Commissioner Fowler – yes.

6. OTHER: (ORS 192.640(1)) “. . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects.”)

None reported.

7. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Fowler discussed the future Hearings that the Board of Commissioners will hold and the logistics of how public comment will take place during those hearings, advisory board meetings being cancelled unless legally necessary, and reducing panic and fear in these uncertain times by coming together as a community to support small businesses but still maintaining social distancing. Commissioner Morgan discussed the economic and health impacts of Covid-19 on our community.

Weekly Business Session adjourned at 9:24 a.m.



Trish Paredes, Recorder

Entered into record:

Exhibit 1 – Becky Egli's Comments

Exhibit 2 – Christie Nelson's Comments

Exhibit 3 – Helena Avina's Comments

Exhibit 4 – Pat Warren's Comments

Exhibit 5 – Allee Gustafson's Comments

Exhibit 6 – Alyssa WarrenWood's Comments

Exhibit 7 – Jeremy WarrenWood's Comments

Exhibit 1
WBS
3.18.20

Trish Paredes

From: Becky Egli <beckyegli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: For weekly business session

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

Hi there, my name is Becky and I am reaching out about the trees marked to be cut down at Whitehorse Park. I am asking for this process to be stopped. I was born and raised here in the Grants Pass/Merlin area. Whitehorse Park is a special place to so many, and it would be devastating in so many ways for these trees to be removed. Please reconsider this taking place. The trees should be left to stand tall and mighty as they already are, and adding more spaces for RVs I believe is disrespectful to not only the trees and life all around them but to the people who come here to enjoy them. I ask with love and respect as I help speak for the voiceless.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message.

Becky

Sent from my iPhone

Exhibit 2
WBS
3-18-20

Trish Paredes

From: Christie Nelson <chrisnels22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: For weekly business session

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

Dear Josephine County Commissioners,

We are concerned about the development plans at Whitehorse Park and request that they be reviewed with the goal of keeping large sections of the mixed conifer-hardwood forest area of the Park intact. We think cutting down over 300 trees in this small park will be detrimental to this forest and will have a significant impact on people's enjoyment of the park, It will also have a significant impact on the bird habitat of the area. This review should be done by a forest ecologist.

Thinning of a closed-canopy forest like this typically results in irreversible damage to the forest, as it is common for large numbers of the remaining trees to fall within a few years. The trees are dependent on each other to guard against high winds or snow fall. Without a forest the park area will become a hot summer parking lot instead of a shady cool forest.

Whitehorse Park has a mild climate with a broad diversity of plant communities. It is also located within major migratory pathways of many bird species. The existing forest keeps the area shady, cool and pleasant for people and this is also important for the birdlife, providing secure, cool places for nesting, perching and foraging.

Whitehorse Park is a draw for birders, both local residents and visitors from all over the U.S.. It is recognized as a birding hotspot, with a large variety of birds -- 186 species identified (eBird, Feb. 2020).

This habitat is important for wildlife and people. This forest helps maintain the diversity and numbers of wild birds and allow people to continue to enjoy the natural beauty and character of this forested section.

The existing plan -- cutting over 300 trees -- would have a heavy impact on this relatively small park. Please retain as much of the remaining remnants of nature forest as possible in this precious park. Please don't allow this beautiful forest to be destroyed in the process of installing additional RV parking.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike and Christie Nelson
155 Wallace Lane
Grants Pass, Oregon

Exhibit 3
WBS
3-18-20

Trish Paredes

From: Helena Avina <helena@dutchbros.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 6:16 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: Weekly business meeting:White Horse Redevelopment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

To whom it may concern,
Very sad news hearing you are planning to cut 348! trees to make more rv spaces at White Horse Park. Sad on many levels:(No chance for residents to have a voice to:
Protect the trees that give shade, supports our wild life and bird life. The result of that many trees cut are devastating to our air, water and soil. To replace a shade canopy with more black top is a terrible idea for our community. Please allow more time on this topic and present it to residents for a vote! If the community supports your agenda then you can move forward accordingly. At the least postpone decision in order for the community to have input and are included in the decision that would change the landscape so many of us have full joyed over the years at White Horse Park. I was at the park this last full moon and it hurt my heart looking around and trying to visualize 350 trees gone. Please take more time on this to come up with the best solution for all.
Please and thank you,
Helena Avina

Exhibit 4
WBS
3.18.20

Trish Paredes

From: Pat Warren <mamamoon2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: For Weekly Business

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

Water is Life! The removal of 347 trees from White Horse Park will indeed affect our water. My name is Pat Warren. I live less than a quarter mile from White Horse Park. It is a Haven for birds, wildlife, and me and my dogs. We don't NEED more RV parking spaces! The County doesn't NEED more revenue from the paving of this park to provide "comfort" to travelers. This park is a unique and valuable ecological system, that science has shown, to be a benefit to humans...not just the living trees and wildlife. Humans are the only thing that feeds on GREED! Greed will be the death of us all. Re-think, re-evaluate, re-plan. Save the life of the trees, save the established ecological system! You may save your own life. "It is through honoring and embracing the ecosystems we live in that a person can begin to feel more and more connected to all things. Small acts of love build positive momentum toward balance." Tom Brown, Healing the Earth.

Heal the earth ...save ourselves. Sincerely submitted for your health and we'll being, Pat Warren Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Exhibit 5
WBS
3.18.20

Trish Paredes

From: Allee <alleegus@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: for weekly business session

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

Allee Gustafson from Grants Pass, Oregon is opposed to the WhiteHorse redevelopment plan, especially the tress being cut down. There is only one WhiteHorse park and we need to conserve the irreplaceable landscape rather than destroy it with another parking lot. Wildlife and birdlife are at risk and will be affected by 348 trees being cut down. Additionally, this is harmful to the air, water and soil quality. Cutting down 348 trees will increase the temperature due to the reduced shade canopy and added blacktop. Please I urge you to put the issue to a vote, let the people be in a position to make the decision.

Thank you,
Allee Gustafson
alleegus@gmail.com
541-218-8690

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Allee Gustafson

~with light, love, and laughter~

Exhibit 6
WBS
3.18.20

Trish Paredes

From: Alyssa Warren <alyssacw90@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: For Weekly Business Session
Attachments: 300 signatures against Whitehorse Park Development 032020.pdf

To Our Local County Commissioners:
Darin, Daniel, and Lily,

I wish to be present at your meeting and speak to you in person, for I find the written word does not always convey the passion, emphasis and enthusiasm that face to face interaction offers. However, I understand and respect your decision to close Public Comment during the current pandemic, and I hope that you will take the time to carefully read and consider the comments submitted to you electronically as an alternative.

My name is Alyssa WarrenWood, I am, and have been a resident of Josephine County for 29 years, and I am opposed to the Whitehorse Park redevelopment project and the removal of 348 trees to pave this pristine natural area for an RV park. A wise elder from our valley who recently passed, the last living member of the Takelma tribe, Grandma Agness Pilgrim stated "You need to get in there and help us be a voice-a voice for the voiceless-and help take care of your habitat where you live. Do the Best You can."

That is what I am doing. The best I can do in the society makeup that we have is to ask YOU, as our County Commissioners, and the ones in power of making decisions, to please do NOT proceed with the Whitehorse Park redevelopment as planned. Open the issue up to the public for vote. If this is truly a democratic nation, as our government says it is, then please let the people decide what happens with Whitehorse Park, instead of those who are focused on the bottom line and projected revenue stream.

In the current state of the world, with infectious disease running rampant, I hope you will consider what kind of repercussions can occur by removing 348 living, established trees. By removing these living beings you will disrupt an entire ecosystem, with consequences that not only affect the local bird and wildlife populations, but that will disrupt the life of the soil, water, air, and every living species, including YOU and I that live in the area.

A recent study published by the New York Times, called The Ecology of Disease (by Jim Robbins) states, "there's a term biologists and economists use these days-ecosystem services-which refers to the many ways nature supports the human endeavor. If we fail to understand and take care of the natural world, it can cause a breakdown of these systems and come back to haunt us in ways we know little about. AIDS, Ebola, West Nile, SARS, Lyme disease and hundreds more that have occurred over the last several decades-don't just happen. They are a result of things people do to nature."

There are millions of other quotes that I could provide that support this research and this concept regarding how we as humans interact and control and manipulate the natural world, and how that eventually causes rippling negative affects across the planet. I ask YOU each to PLEASE consider these very real situations and weigh whether or not 20 paved RV sites are worth the destruction you will cause. In my mind and my heart, I cannot fathom why you would want to destroy the beautiful space Whitehorse Park is and has existed as for so many years. There are many other places RV parks could be built that would not involve the destruction of so much life.

I have attached a petition that has gathered nearly 300 signatures that do NOT support the Whitehorse redevelopment, and that are attempting to make a difference to speak up for the Trees that have no voice. It is now up to YOU each to make a real tangible difference and choose a different path than the one currently being trodden.

Grandma Aggie believes, "We can join together, no matter what our religious or spiritual beliefs are, to save our Earth Mother and salvage our own existence. Since we're all in this leaky canoe together, we need to be a united force that keeps on keeping on."

I ask you to please join the united force that is in favor of saving Mother Earth and our human existence.

"Unless Someone like YOU Cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get Better. It's NOT."

I leave you with the thought that a tree falls the way it leans. Please be careful which way you lean.

It is in your hands now. Please County Commissioners hear our prayer for the trees and do the right thing.

Thank you,
Alyssa C WarrenWood

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

Exhibit 8
WBS
3.18.20

Trish Paredes

From: Jeremy Wood <jdwood118@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: For Weekly Business Session

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please verify links by hovering over them!

My name is Jeremy D WarrenWood. Please do not proceed with the Whitehorse Park Redevelopment project. Please do not cut down the trees.

Please open a vote for the people to decide.

It is the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Jeremy WarrenWood