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**Villages at Mt. Hood
Town Hall Meeting
Saturday, November 17, 2007
Welches Elementary School Multipurpose Room
Welches, Oregon**

Call to Order/Welcome/Board Introductions

The Chair Nancy Dougherty called the meeting to order at 9:38 AM. She welcomed attendees and introduced Board members Robert Baker, Judith Norval, Bob Reeves, Rick Applegate, and Pat Buckley. It was noted that the followiner were absent with notice: Shirley Dueber and Barbara Saldivar.

Minutes of the August 18, 2007 Town Hall Meeting

The Minutes of the August 18, 2007 Town Hall Meeting were reviewed as circulated.

Motion:

Judith Norval moved and Robert Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes as circulated.

Discussion:

None.

Vote:

Ayes: Voice only - multiple

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Action:

The Minutes of the August 18, 2007 Town Hall Meeting were approved as circulated.

Speaker: Dr. Shelley Redinger

Chair Nancy Dougherty introduced Dr. Redinger, Superintendent, Oregon Trail School District. Dr. Redinger noted she was here to give an update on her work.

Dr. Redinger reported that about 50% of the population does not have children in school. This makes communication of the District's goals very important. She circulated a listing of Short Term Goals for 2007-2008 that included:

Facilities: *completing a facilities study; preparing for a Bond in November 2008.*

A task force is working on detailing this information. A specific bond amount has not yet been determined. There will be a community forum held on January 10, 2008, in the Sandy High School Library to get citizen input before the School Board makes its final planning decisions.

Dr. Redinger noted that planning for the future meant working on partnerships (with Clackamas County Education District, Mt. Hood Community College, Clackamas County Law Enforcement, libraries, community centers and the like.)

1 It was also noted that there are efforts focused on consolidating administration properties
2 to save money. There is a possibility of the District selling some property.

3 Staff and Community Relations: *Improving communication with staff at all*
4 *levels, improving engagement of the greater community.* Dr. Redinger said the District is still
5 experiencing some growing pains due to the consolidation into one large district.

6 Student Achievement: *Increasing achievement levels at the middle and high*
7 *school levels—focusing on mathematics, readings, and writing.* Dr. Redinger reported that
8 student achievement is very good at the elementary school level; more work is needed at the high
9 school level. Work has advanced on a strategic plan to achieve improvement there.

10 Technology: *Developing and integrating the use of technology in teaching and*
11 *learning.* Dr. Redinger reported that the District had received some grants to fund this work.

12 Finance: *Maintaining financial stability; planning for the future (economic*
13 *impacts and growth).* Dr. Redinger emphasized that it is important not to tip into imbalance with
14 academic funding. Portland State University has done some enrollment projection studies.
15 There are pockets of the region that appear to be declining, others growing. The conclusion:
16 that there is a stability to the region in the 10 year look-ahead. It will take some new population
17 growth to impact the District's planning.

18 Climate: *Creating positive energy and engagement around the Oregon Trail*
19 *School District.* Dr. Redinger noted that the District's Strategic Planning report would be
20 available in Spring 2008.

21
22 Dr. Redinger concluded her report by referring to additional handouts: *Oregon Trail School*
23 *District's "Points of Pride"* and the *Facility Task Force Report* regarding its recommendation to
24 build a new high school. The reverse side of the latter report presented an aerial map of the
25 school properties. The current high school sits on about 12 acres. The future high school site is
26 proposed 80 acres owned by the District. She said that they are currently not planning to do any
27 changes with the environmental trail area. Because of multiple access points, there is a concern
28 for security issues.

29
30 Board Member Rick Applegate asked a community relations question. He said he often felt that
31 Oregon Trail School District's published perspectives on the Mountain region were often way
32 off mark. Dr. Redinger encouraged the Mountain citizens to participate in the forum and to give
33 clarifying information when that happens. Rick Applegate asked about the school's drop-out
34 rate. It has been posed that it is higher for students from the Mountain. Is that true? Dr.
35 Redinger responded that the drop-out information was not area-specific. She had heard
36 informally that the Mountain is a source for a higher number of Talented and Gifted students.

37
38 Board Member Rick Applegate expressed his concern that the technology issues not be
39 undervalued in future planning. Dr. Redinger felt it was heavily weighted in planning for the
40 future...for pre-engineering CADD training, on-line courses, web-page academy projects and the
41 like. She emphasized that this was an area where key technology partnerships will be highly
42 valued.

43 **Board Member Presentations**

44
45 Chair Nancy Dougherty announced the Villages at Mt. Hood regular Board Meetings occur from
46 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Hoodland Fire Department's

1 Community Room. The Board has had presentations by John Borge (regarding Clackamas
2 County land use planning), Lt. Chuck Slaney (Clackamas County law enforcement and security),
3 and Mike Bowman (Salmon Valley Water system). Up-coming presentations are planned for
4 Neighborhood Watch, Rhododendron Summer Homes Association (water district) and other
5 water systems in the region. It is the Board's intent eventually to have a round table discussion at
6 a Town Hall Meeting for discussing the region's water opportunities and challenges.

7
8 Board Member Rick Applegate shared his feeling that the Board has turned the corner in the past
9 few months. They are getting ready to accomplish things of substance for the region. He
10 touched on things that came out of the last town hall meeting. (*See also the compilation on the*
11 *attached flyer.*) In particular, it is his vision that historical perspectives and community
12 characteristics be compiled for the various communities' signature identities. He perceives there
13 is a need for people to get out there and talk about this for building a three-to-five-year plan. He
14 stated that in the next few years a plan and a group will emerge to get things done. There is a
15 need for artisans, historians, etc. to work together to get the best and greatest perspective.

16
17 Board Member Judith Norval thanked people for making the new recycle collection site
18 successful. It is located in the southeast corner of the Hoodland Thriftway parking lot (across
19 Welches Road from the Stagestop Road intersection.) People can now recycle newspaper,
20 magazine, and junk mail. There is no provision for cardboard recycling there yet.

21 22 **Election of Board Members/Break**

23 Chair Nancy Dougherty introduced the election process for Villages at Mt. Hood Board members
24 Robert Baker, Pat Buckley and Brigitte Romeo. County Liaison Chris Roth is serving as
25 election clerk.

26
27 *//Break for Balloting, 10:20 am to 10:45 am//*

28 29 **Presentation from Teresa Christopherson, Clackamas County,** 30 **Fiscal Agent for the Mountain Express**

31
32 Vice chair Bob Reeves introduced Teresa Christopherson who gave a Mountain Express
33 Progress Report (*see handout*). Within the Clackamas County Social Services, transportation is
34 considered a key service within local areas to help. She emphasized partnerships and networking
35 that help support these services. Clackamas County Social Services has accepted the fiscal agent
36 for the management of the Mountain Express bus service. Since 2003 (starting with 69
37 riders/month) the Mountain Express is now serving over 1,000 riders per month. This project
38 and its ridership is considered exceptional in the State of Oregon. 16-20% of the riders are
39 seniors and those with a disability. 40-50% of the riders are youth who recently made 464 trips
40 in one month. This latter service provides great savings to parents.

41
42 Many riders use the service for medical appointments, recreation (seeing a movie, for example),
43 getting to school, shopping, and as a key connection point for other transportation services.
44 There is great cost effectiveness in linking systems, with savings on drivers that can work within
45 different areas. (As an aside, she noted that people shouldn't be confused with differing busses
46 coming in from time to time. The changes typically relate to maintenance issues or protecting

1 the equipment for longevity.) The schedule is posted at various locations around the community
2 including the Fire Station, the Library, at Mt. Hood Information Center and elsewhere. The
3 schedule can also be found on the County's website and www.mthood.info.

4
5 Additional statistics were presented regarding the riders: 26% use the service every day. 25%
6 use it for shopping. Overall, rider comments have been very complimentary. Some options
7 riders suggested for the future: earlier runs, later runs, Saturday services.

8
9 With regard to the future, the basic strategic planning process calls for answers to questions such
10 as what does the community need? How do they pay for it? Currently a little over 56% of the
11 funding comes from Oregon Department of Transportation's federal 5311 program funds. These
12 funds provide up to 56.08% reimbursement of the expenses of operating a rural transportation
13 service. There are also some funds that come from selling from Business Energy Tax Credits.
14 And, of course, some funds come from rider fees, funds for matched project management time
15 by Social Services, and volunteer time from the local transportation committee. There was also a
16 \$9,500 cash match from Board of County Commissioners this year.

17
18 For the future, the cost of gas is an issue, as is equipment maintenance/replacement. The current
19 Mountain Express bus has 200,000 miles on it and maintenance issues are ongoing. While there
20 are grants for vehicles, there still will need to be additional funds for operations.

21
22 One funding option is a revenue district. This allows for stability and ownership within a region.
23 Teresa Christopherson realizes this is not a popular option. There can also be fundraisers and
24 bus advertisers. Grant funding is a possibility but is typically short-termed and cannot be used
25 for operating costs.

26
27 For Christopherson, the bottom line is that the Mountain Express is giving great service for
28 dollar value, but sustainability is an issue. In short, this is an example of a great project, but the
29 community must be prepared to examine their commitment to the service long-term.

30
31 Attendees questions touched on costs for rides, bicycle racks (already in place), signs/service at
32 stops (already in place), etc. Christopherson noted there is some ability for riders to call in for a
33 special stop and some allowance is made for a deviation of route by calling in (for the disabled,
34 especially). Attendees also noted the need for connecting Welches and Government Camp (not
35 just for tourists but for the local labor force getting to/from work amongst the villages on Mt.
36 Hood). Christopherson stated an initial approach to Government Camp on this issue elicited a
37 lukewarm response. In short, Christopherson emphasized that the service is currently not
38 designed for tourism activities, or local labor force movement, but for locals residents to have
39 access to off-the-Mountain services.

40
41 For ultimate project success, Teresa Christopherson emphasized the need more riders on the
42 Mountain Express.

43
44 Attendee Don Mench complimented Board Member Bob Reeves' efforts in getting this project
45 started.

1 For the future, other suggestions for the Mountain Express project include roofed structures at
2 the signed stops (recognizing there are some costs but it gives the project more visibility). While
3 recreation was earlier cited as a current rider use, recreation rider options may be viewed as
4 much broader than Mountain Express currently defines it (i.e., for attending movies in Sandy).
5 Perhaps additional funding partners/sources might be found for a couple of the high seasons for
6 outdoor recreation (summer and winter). Parking issues up the Mountain in winter could be
7 alleviated with such a transportation strategy. It was suggested there may be additional options
8 for grants to serve that ridership a couple of seasons a year. Christopherson emphasized that the
9 primary focus of the service is local people accessing necessary services off the Mountain.
10 Board Member Robert Baker said maybe it was time to approach Government Camp again about
11 opportunities for partnerships. Christopherson said she would be happy to work with the group,
12 supporting that.

13
14 In response to an attendee question, it was clarified that Mt. Hood Meadows Human Resources
15 department should contact Teresa Christopherson about their bus runs and how those might link
16 in services with Mountain Express, etc.

17 18 **Results of the Election Announced**

19 Chair Nancy Dougherty asked County Liaison Chris Roth to announce voting results.

20 21 *Election Results by Candidate: 24 ballots cast*

22 Robert Baker: 22

23 Pat Buckley:22

24 Brigette Romeo:21

25 Two ballots were spoiled

26 27 28 **Rhododendron Community Planning Organization Request**

29 Board Member Rick Applegate made a presentation on Steve Graeper's behalf as he was called
30 to work today. Rick Applegate reviewed the bylaws revision process and the recent ordinance
31 revision that led to the most recent bylaws changes where CPO chairs were no longer
32 automatically on the Board of the Villages of Mt. Hood.

33
34 Rick Applegate noted that Rhododendron felt they needed a further bylaw change that addressed
35 Rhododendron participation on the Board. The Rhododendron CPO adopted a motion that asked
36 for a bylaws change whereby going forward the Villages at Mt. Hood Board would not be
37 entirely from one village. The request is going to the Strategic Planning Organization in January
38 2008.

39
40 Attendee Don Mench said that in his attendance at the meetings he felt there was a general
41 concern was for safeguarding the diversity of villages' representation. Board Member Rick
42 Applegate said he took exception to that representation as he made the motion and that it would
43 more geared to the Rhododendron issue. From his perspective, any area that feels there are not
44 represented should work to get representation on the Board. Everyone has the opportunity to
45 participate on the Board and in the bylaw revision process. The motion was that at any time the
46 Board was not be made up entirely of representatives from one area.

1
2 Robert Baker noted that at least one Board Member is opposed to the bylaws change. At any
3 time, anyone can run for a Board position. He does not believe the bylaws should define a
4 mandate regarding the makeup of the Board. The Board needs to move forward with the work of
5 the Board. Let the bylaws stand as they are. Robert Baker will continue to oppose the process
6 unless the citizens say otherwise. The Chair said that anyone who wants to run for the Board
7 should simply contact Chris Roth, get an application, and file it for approval by Board of County
8 Ccommissioners.

9
10 Attendee Sally Streeter asked if that meant there are more important things for the Board to
11 address than representation? Robert Baker responded, no; it is his position that the opportunity is
12 there for anyone to serve on the Board. The motion is geared more for doing bylaw changes to
13 guarantee positions for regions. Robert Baker does not understand the need for the process.

14
15 Attendee Keith Schacher pointed out that every board member is one at large from the
16 boundaries of the Villages at Mt. Hood region. If the Board is doing a proposal that is affecting
17 one of the communities, get a consensus from the citizens of that community. He did not see the
18 need to have guaranteed community representatives.

19
20 Board Member Rick Applegate reminded people that this was not a Board issue; this is a request
21 from the Rhododendron CPO. While Rick Applegate philosophically agrees with what Keith
22 Schacher has said, the Rhododendron CPO has expressed their concern about representation and
23 is bringing their request to this Board. He encouraged people to think of the difference in the
24 regions (development comparisons, population categories, etc). Rhododendron citizens, in their
25 discussions, have considered pulling out of the Villages. A bylaws change is a good compromise
26 on the issue.

27
28 Board Member Bob Reeves stated that Board Members have a responsibility to represent
29 everyone within the Villages boundaries regardless of the region any Board member comes from.

30
31 Attendee George Wilson said he was in agreement with Bob Reeves. This whole issue is way
32 ahead of the organization's development. There needs to be more people interested in the
33 process. It is not as if there was a line up of people waiting for positions. The bylaws has a been
34 a matter of contention for the Board the past 18 months. The Board is past that now. He does
35 not view it as valuable to go back to bylaws revisions. The Board needs to move forward with
36 the work of the organization until more people are participating before they take on bylaw
37 changes again.

38
39 Board Member Rick Applegate asked what people thought of a once-a-year bylaws review by
40 Strategic Planning Organization rather than on-going debate on bylaws throughout the year by
41 the Board and at Town Hall Meetings.

42
43 Attendee Don Mench clarified that he was speaking as an individual; he was not speaking as a
44 previous Board member (for the Villages at Mt. Hood) or from the Rhododendron CPO. He
45 expressed concern that there are still citizens who do not know what the villages are about.
46 Diversity in representation is of interest as people come to understand the Villages at Mt. Hood.

1 He reminded the Board that Rhododendron came in late in the Villages at Mt. Hood formation
2 process. They had actually been looking at the option of being a hamlet unto themselves. They
3 recognize that Rhododendron representation is strong now, but when positions come open again,
4 their concern is for that time. He is an advocate for working through issues from the bottom up;
5 not top down. That is, he encouraged that the Board to look at the issue as from the citizens and
6 be prepared to deal with that.

7
8 Chair Nancy Dougherty stepped in to clarify that it was the CPO Chairs who had resigned as
9 Board members when the recent bylaws changes were implemented and the CPO Chair-
10 designated positions were eliminated. Those CPO Chairs could have continued as Board
11 members...they were not asked to leave.

12
13 Board Member Rick Applegate reminded people that the Rhododendron CPO asked for this
14 consideration.

15
16 An attendee expressed his opinion that people need to get representatives voted on to the Board
17 that serve the region as a whole.

18
19 **Next Town Hall Meeting**

20 The Chair announced that the next Town Hall Meeting would be held in February 2008.

21
22 **Board of County Commissioners Visit**

23 The Chair announced that the Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors will be meeting with the
24 Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 11:00
25 am, Community Room, Hoodland Fire Department. This meeting will be styled as an annual
26 report meeting. Citizens are welcome to attend; however, there will not be any opportunity for
27 citizens to speak at that meeting.

28
29 **Adjournment**

30 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

31
32 Respectfully submitted by

33
34 Marilyn Peterson
35 Mountain Quail Business Services, Inc.

36
37 **ATTACHMENTS**

38 //Sign-in Sheets were retained by Clackamas County//
39 Agenda
40 Minutes of the August 18, 2007 Town Hall Meeting
41 Ballot Sample