

It is nice to contemplate the first extended string of non-rainy days. But, as some wag supposedly said some time ago: there are two seasons in Oregon, rainy and road work.

This road work season may be particularly exciting because it will mark the start of real construction of the rehabilitation of Franklin Boulevard. Although the traffic disruption may drive some of us to distraction, the end result good well be the tipping point for an explosion of development in Glenwood. Already a second hotel is nearing completion and businesses have more eliciting ideas on the drawing board.

Other exciting things will happen this year. The Mill Race path has been completed and it and the adjoining storm water park will add yet another reason to come downtown, The city has begun talking more seriously about relocating a fire station closer to downtown and Glenwood and also about constructing a new and larger library,

McKenzie-Willamette should complete its renovation project this year, providing new energy to Mohawk. Maybe someone will finally have a plan to develop the vacant property north of Highway 126.

City Club is also poised for growth and more excitement. Recently we discussed edgier topics like a new tax to fund education and the issue of so-called sanctuary cities (see the summaries on page 2). At the end of March we co-sponsored with the city club of Eugene a special program on the state of Muslim women in America. Our future calendar contains more of these challenging and interesting topics.

But, as always, we look to our members for more exciting ideas. Give yourself a voice by suggesting additional programs (an email to information@springfieldcityclub.org will suffice) or come to a program and make a suggestion. Most of all, come to a program and learn. Invite your friends and neighbors to be part of the discussion which can shape our community for the future.

Len Goodwin

MEETING CALENDAR

- May 4 – School Board election forum
- May 18 – PERS
- June 1 – The Electoral College
- June 15 – Homelessness/ Affordable Housing

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

Springfield City Council

May 1

- Work Session – 6:00 p.m.
Affordable Housing strategy
- Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing: Wastewater Stormwater rates
Public Hearing: Liquor License approvals
Bond Refinance Resolution

May 8

- Work Session – 5:30 p.m.
Economic Performance Report

May 15

- Work Session – 6:00 p.m.
Police Levy discussion
Sanipac Franchise Renewal
- Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.
Public Hearing: Zone change/Metro Plan Amendment
Public Hearing: Sanipac Franchise

May 22

- Work Session – 5:30 p.m.
ADA Transition Plan
Main Street Safety and Transit Projects

May 29 NO MEETING

Lane County Commissioners

- May 2
- May 9
- May 16
- May 23
- May 30 – NO MEETING

Lane Transit District

- May 17 – 5:30 p.m.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

- May 10 – 6:30 p.m.

School District 19

- May 8 – 7:00 p.m.

Springfield Utility Board

- May 10 – 6:00 p.m.

MEETINGS

APRIL 6 – EDUCATION TAX

On April 6 City Club heard a presentation from Bob Cassidy supporting the creation of a state Education Tax which might address the existing budget gap and the shortfall in education funding. He suggests the "Education Tax" would be in the state constitution dedicated to school funding. It would be based on sales of commodities -like a sales tax. The legislature would determine the plan and refer it to the citizens for a vote. Depending on many details -the numbers here vary a bit, but generally, a 5% tax would yield about \$8 billion dollars a year. The State currently spend over \$3 billion a year and education experts say we need \$5 billion more. This new \$8 billion would cost us about under \$1 billion to collect, yielding \$7 billion (or \$1 billion short of the total need.) Cassidy said it would cover all pre-kindergarten through Community College at a level of education that we could really be proud of again. And there would be money left over to build a rainy-day fund for schools. The \$3 billion we spend now for education could be restructured to provide the additional \$1 billion for education and \$2 billion to close the General fund gap.

Former Springfield Superintendent and Chief State Education Officer Nancy Golden joined Bob as a resource person. Dr. Golden emphasized that consistency in the level of funding is as important as the amount of funding. She noted that in the past several years, since Measure 5 limited property taxation for education purposes, education funding had been driven by cyclical fluctuations in the Oregon economy, which allow programs to grow and become stable in good times, but forced cuts when the economy weakened.

APRIL 20 -SANCTUARY CITIES

The April 20 Springfield City Club program took up the question of sanctuary cities by noting, at the beginning, that no one knows what the definition of sanctuary city is.

For all of the discussion on this topic, there has never been agreement on what a “sanctuary” community is. In popular parlance, it seems to describe some form of resistance to federal enforcement of immigration laws by local officials, but, as Niel Laudati, Legislative Affairs Manager for the city pointed out, immigration is the exclusive province of the federal government and no lower level of government has any legal authority with respect to immigration.

Mr. Laudati, and Phil Carrasco, a regional representative for the Oregon AFL-CIO, led a vigorous conversation on the topic.

The confusion appears to start, according to Mr. Laudati, with the fact that unlawful presence in the United States – that is the status of being a person in the United States but with no legal right to do so – is NOT a crime under federal law, except in the circumstance where an individual has been excluded from the United States in a formal proceeding and returns to the United States without authorization. Since that is true, no local or state law enforcement official has any ability to detain a person, even if know to be unlawfully present in the US. Law enforcement officials are empowered only to detain or arrest persons accused of a criminal act.

By contrast, illegal entry into the United States is a misdemeanor. Even there, however, since the misdemeanor is federal and since local officials have no immigration enforcement authority, there is no way a local law enforcement official can take action.

The one area where it seems the issue may be more real is the ability or authority of local officials to respond to what is called an “IE detainer,” which is a request from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (a federal agency) to detain an individual who is either unlawfully present or has illegally entered the United States. The challenge to that action appears to be that the ICE detainer is a civil request, not supported by an arrest warrant, and thus any enforcement by a local law enforcement official might well constitute a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

The need for an arrest warrant in Oregon is made clear in ORS 181A.820, which provides:

(1) No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws....

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a law enforcement agency may arrest any person who:

(a) Is charged by the United States with a criminal violation of federal immigration laws under Title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act or 18 U.S.C. 1015, 1422 to 1429 or 1505; and

(b) Is subject to arrest for the crime pursuant to a warrant of arrest issued by a federal magistrate.

Despite this statute, the City of Springfield has regularly appeared on a list of so-called sanctuary communities, because the Springfield Police Department has formally adopted a policy compliant with ORS 181A.820. That list, issued by ICE, has now been deleted, because of “data inconsistencies.”

In response to a question, Mr. Carrasco reported that Oregon receives approximately \$81 million annually from taxes paid by undocumented residents.

Springfield City Club Board Meeting Tuesday, March 7, 2017 Wildish Community Theater

In Attendance:

Terry Beyer, President
Joe Leahy, President-elect
John Tamulonis, Treasurer
Dan Egan, Secretary

Chris Kline
Len Goodwin

Merlyn Hough

1. Call to order: The meeting began at 12:35 pm.
2. Approval of previous minutes: Joe Leahy moved and Merlyn Hough seconded a motion to approve the previous minutes. The motion carried with an abstention by John Tamuloinis.
3. Financial Report: John Tamulonis stated that finances were in good shape; that the last program was a healthy one financially. He also talked about the need for someone else to act as treasurer for the Club. Terry Beyer said she is going to talk to Steve Moe about this task.
4. Membership Report: Chris Kline and the board looked at the composition of the membership as provided on a couple of different lists. Several board members divided the “call” list of former members to encourage re-joining the Club. Kris also said that his continuing on the Board was problematic with the workload he has at the bank. The Board will need to fill that position going forward.
5. Program Report: Merlyn Hough reviewed the past program and looked forward to the coming programs including a presentation by Mayor Lundberg on March 6 and the Education Funding Program on April 6. Board members discussed other possible programs including: Electoral College; Immigration; PERS; Sanctuary Cities and more.
6. Club Staff: The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a support staff person again to assist with back desk and board responsibilities. Dan Egan had shown an interest in the position. After discussion, Len Goodwin offered to fulfill those duties, and the board agreed to that relationship.
7. Adjournment: The meeting ended around 1:20 p.m.

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