

Springfield City Club starts out its new year in a new venue. The Hilton Garden Inn, in Gateway, will now host all programs. Although Willamalane's Bob Keefer Center was a fine venue, the proximity of the Hilton Garden to downtown and more of our members made the choice a wise one.

Hopefully, the change in venue will lead to new excitement and interest in participating in City Club. Springfield is now a part of a coalition of statewide City Clubs. We now may be able to coordinate programs and even provide programs that are state wide. We tried a Skype video conference at the January 19 program. While audio challenges (which we have since figured out) made that aspect not work to well, the opportunity to have one program available simultaneously at all City Club's is one we are looking forward to.

The existence of the coalition also means we might be able to attract more issues of statewide significance and, even national import.

It may be that we are entering a period of significant unrest. The body politic, certainly on the national level, has become extremely polarized. There are even some indications of polarization on the state level. So far, we are fortunate that local issues seem to be susceptible to rational discussion, even where people don't agree.

To keep that calm mood in place, it is important that citizens try to inform themselves with facts, not rely on the latest twitter or Facebook post. That is where City Club can act as a tempering influence. When we present programs that offer all sides of the issue, in a calm and deliberative manner, we go a long way to cooling the heat that seems to surround us every day.

You part in all this is particularly important. By coming to City Club regularly, by participating in a rational discussion and debate, you take a step toward cooling the flames of outrage. Be a part of the fire extinguisher. Attend City Club.

*Len Goodwin
Board Member*

MEETING CALENDAR

February 2 – Education Tax

Bob Cassidy will discuss a proposal which might address the existing budget gap and the shortfall in education funding. He suggests a special "Education Tax" that 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 our vote. Depending on many details -the numbers here vary a bit, but generally, a 5% tax would yield about \$8 billion dollars a year. We 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 goal. 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 (Continued on page 2)

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

Springfield City Council

February 6

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

Development code Update

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

MWMC SDC Modifications

February 13

Work Session 5:30 p.m.

Joint Work Session dev. Advisory Comm.

Affordable Housing Strategy

February 21

Executive session 6:00 p.m.

Labor negotiations

Work Session 6:30 p.m.

Budget Committee interviews

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing Supp. Budget

Public Hearing Admin Warrants

Metro Plan Amend., Bishops Store house

February 27

Work session 5:30 p.m.

Fees and Charges

Fire Station

Library Needs Assessment

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MEETINGS

Lane County Commissioners

February 7 9:00 a.m.

February 14 9:00 a.m.

Deliberations Old Hazeldell Quarry

February 21 NO MEETING

February 28 NO MEETING

Lane Transit District

February 15, 5:30 p.m.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

February 8, 6:30 p.m.

School District 19

February 13, 7:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting

February 27, 4:00 p.m. Work Session

Springfield Utility Board

February 8, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 5: WARD WIMBISH AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Ward Wimbish is the new Executive Director of Greater Eugene Inc., the successor to the short-lived South Willamette Economic Development Corporation and the long-standing Lane Metro Partnership. He comes to lead regional economic development

efforts from a career in economic development in West Memphis, Arkansas (which some might consider to be the Springfield of the metro Memphis area). He is trained as an engineer and served as the West Memphis Public Works Director, as well as having worked in the private sector.

In his first few months in the area he has spent much of his time visiting the local communities, to learn about

their values and resources, and has concluded that many of the communities have advanced tools in place to position themselves for economic growth. He sees his role, and the role of Greater Eugene, Inc., as a facilitator and coordinator of local efforts, as much as a generator of opportunities.



Greater Eugene, he said, should be a clearinghouse for all local agencies, and a one-stop shop for potential developers. As an example, he noted that there are seven significant electrical utilities in the region, and it is a challenge to make sure that someone seeking a site can find out information about all of them in one place.

Wimbish addressed the choice of name, which some have questioned, directly. "Willamette," he said, is neither a word that trips easily off the tongue nor evokes immediate recognition. By contrast, because of the University of Oregon's great success in athletics, particularly track and field, the name "Eugene" triggers almost universal immediate recognition and positive reactions. "like the 'Tracktown' descriptor, almost everyone knows where it is and what it means.

He has also been compiling an inventory of the region's assets. He has seen what appears to be a deficiency in industrial land, and has urged the communities not to pin their hopes on attracting



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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 will join Bob as a resource person.

February 16 – TBD

large industrial employers. Rather, he says, the area should concentrate on attracting industries that need what the region has: good support for technology (all the benefits of the San Francisco area, at much lower cost), bioscience, specialty agriculture and food processing, and advanced manufacturing. He also urged members to not give up on the timber industry, pointing to the potential in cross-laminated timber as a source of new growth.

For the outlying communities, he urged continued focus on developing telecommunication infrastructure and efforts to provide natural gas service, although in response to a question he acknowledge that some developers may not realize that the lower cost of electricity in the region might make it profitable to use electricity rather than gas for some operations.

Finally, in response to a question from the members, he said that developers do NOT generally like development incentives, "They generally come around to bite you," he said. Rather, communities might focus on providing infrastructure as an alternative to many incentives.

JANUARY 19 – MALHEUR OCCUPATION, TRIAL AND VERDICT

It is probably fair to say that the verdict was not anticipated by the public. A number of individuals moved into the offices of the Malheur National Refuge in November 5, 2015, and remained there through February 12, 2016. The 46 day event was commonly described as an "occupation" and it was a common perception that there was a standoff between those present at the refuge and federal officials.

Following the end of the "occupation" 25 individuals were indicted on a number of charges, including conspiracy to prevent federal officials from performing their duties, and several related charges of possession and use of firearms, and theft and destruction of government property.

11 of those indicted pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentence. In late 2016 seven individuals went to trial (trials for the remaining seven are pending). After a five week trial, and several days of deliberation, the jury returned its verdict: not guilty on all counts!

Maxine Bernstein, a reporter for the Oregonian, and Margie Paris, a U of O professor of Law, attended the entire trial. On February 18, they came to explain to City Club the trial and why it seems the verdict of not guilty was reached. Max Bernstein, who was on the phone from Portland, found the trial very dry and unexciting. The testimony was dull recitals of the arrival of the defendants, after they appeared at a rally in support of two farmers who had been ordered to return to prison after conviction for setting fire to government land. At one point, the prosecution brought in over fifty weapons that had been found on the property and displayed them for the jury.

Jury selection, she said, was interesting. The jury pool was selected from the entire state and, as it turned out, most of the jurors had never heard of the occupation. Unusually, all jurors were identified only by number.

After the verdict was rendered, only Juror #4 was willing to speak publicly. His comments are important; he said that the prosecutors had simply not proved that the presence of the occupiers prevented federal officials from working. Surprising, apparently there was no testimony that any federal employee attempted to enter the facility and no one ever specifically asked the protestors to leave.

Prof. Paris noted that the very narrow indictment – which charge a conspiracy to prevent federal employees from doing their job, was a critical factor, While to common plan of the conspiracy was relatively easy to prove, the overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy – denying federal employees access, never was. Since all of the other counts were dependent on prove of the conspiracy count, when it fell, they all did.

The government has revised its tactics for the remaining defendants and added several other counts that do not rely on proof of the conspiracy.

Springfield City Club Board Meeting

Wildish Community Theater

January 3, 2017

In Attendance:

Terry Beyer, President

Joe Leahy, President-elect

Mike Eyster, Immed. Past President

Dan Egan, Secretary

Chris Kline

Steve Moe

Carolyn Miller

Len Goodwin

1. Call to order: The meeting began at 11:35 a.m.
2. Approval of the previous minutes: The previous minutes were approved through a motion by Mike Eyster and a second by Len Goodwin.
3. Financial Report: There was no financial report.
4. Membership: There was a discussion about purging and correcting the membership listing depending on payment of dues and accurate business and individual listing.
There was a motion approved (motion by Len Goodwin and second by Mike Eyster) to allow domestic partners to join City Club at a \$125.00/year rate.
5. Programs: Mike Eyster will introduce the next program speaker – Ward Wimbish of Greater Eugene Inc. It will be the first City Club meeting at the new location of the Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield. The program after Ward Wimbish will be the re-scheduled meeting concerning the Malheur take-over of federal land and installations. Mike Eyster will verify that SKYPE will be available at the Hilton Garden Inn.
The Board discussed other ideas for programs: SUB/EWEB Water Projects; Springfield housing stock; Mayor/Council Goal-Setting; after Obamacare; Homelessness in Springfield.
6. Public Relations: There are no changes with the website; Len will write the next newsletter article.
7. New Board Member/Officer Election: Terry will set this agenda item for election in May.
8. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 12:45 p.m.

City Club Board of Directors

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