

Participatory Democracy

“A rose is a rose is a rose”.....is a literary phrase attributed to Gertrude Stein to indicate that things are as they appear. That phrase may apply to one interpreting what it is to be a rose, but it is a much different story when one looks at democracies.

Nations who organize under the banner of Democracy, or who call themselves Democracies, or who have the name “Democracy” in the actual name of their country vary from free and democratic nations to totalitarian police states. Freedom and choice does not come from mere words in a nation’s description or motto or creed. Freedom and choice come from the exercise of those concepts. They come from a Participatory Democracy.

The definition of Participatory Democracy assumes broad participation by constituents within the system – participation to the degree that the constituents’ actions largely steer the course of the democracy. This is how we define our democracy in the United States. We have a system that only works through actions by us – the constituents – to influence the direction of our cities, counties, states and nation. We direct change through the election of representatives (a Republic) and voting on measures that are put before us.

We have an “action” democracy. Action in the sense of educating yourself about issues, reading the newspaper, registering and then voting in each election, marching when you are moved to do so and speaking up rather than hunkering down when there are tough issues and times.

If we are to experience fully an American Participatory Democracy that is working and working well, we all have an obligation to do our part, to do the “participation” part. Thank you for being a part of Springfield City Club where issues and people meet, and thank you, in whatever way you do, for bring an active participant in this great democratic experiment we call America.

Dan Egan

MEETING CALENDAR

February 1 – FIREARMS SAFETY.

Senator Floyd Prozanski will discuss how to protect people from the risk of firearms injury or death. A representative of the national Rifle Association has been invited to present their views.

February 15 and March 1 – The Un-housed and Affordable Housing

A two part discussion of issues surrounding homelessness in Springfield and some of the alternatives that exist to find affordable housing.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 2018

Work session 6:00 p.m.

Accessory Dwelling Units

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

Accessory Dwelling Units (3rd reading)

February 12, 2018

Work session 5:30 p.m.

Affordable Housing Strategy

February 20, 2018 (Tuesday)

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

TSP Implementation Project

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

PH – Supplemental budget

Art Commission Bylaws Amendment

February 26, 2018

Work session 5:30 p.m.

New library Community Outreach Plan

Ground Medical Transport Fee

Discussion

CMO Art Program

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

- February 13, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- February 20, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- February 27, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

February 21, 2018 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

BOARD OFFICES HAVE RELOCATED TO 640 A STREET

The agenda for scheduled board meetings can be found at www.springfield.k12.or.us/board-meetings the Thursday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

- February 12, 2018 – Board meeting 7:00 p.m.
- February 26, 2018 – Work session 4:00 p.m.

WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT

- February 14, 2018 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.
2nd Quarter Financial Report
Budget Preparation

SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD

February 14, 2018 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY 4, 2018 STATE OF THE CITY

Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg delivered her State of the City address to a City Club meeting attended by well over 100 members and residents on January 4. This was her first stop on a tour where she would speak on separate occasions to different groups, including the Springfield Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Lundberg initiated this new format, instead of a single speech, in the hope of reaching more residents and of creating more opportunities for the citizens to interact with her.



The Mayor reviewed the progress Springfield has seen in the past year, including completion of a long-planned expansion of the Urban growth boundary which is now under

review by the Land Conservation and Development Commission, and a major start on the renovation of Franklin Boulevard, which will be completed in the next construction season. She pointed to many new businesses and construction work in downtown to confirm the significant growth in the local economy, particularly downtown Springfield.

For the upcoming year, she highlighted several issues that demand attention.

First, responding to a question about Springfield’s relatively slow growth in population over the past several years (below the lane County average), she said that clearly more housing was needed to accommodate and support growth. She pointed to the Council’s recent work on developing an affordable housing strategy as a key to providing adequate housing for all economic levels. In responding to a question, she reported that the current proposal for adding accessory dwelling units, like “tiny” houses, would require those types of dwelling be capable of being moved, and not on foundations. She said the Council will be considering those changes in the very near future.

The Main Street transportation study remains a high priority. In addition to several ongoing safety projects, she told the audience that all transportation options for the Main Street corridor remain on the table, and that no decision has been made on what mass transit improvements make the best sense. She also said that upcoming discussion on Main Street safety, including consideration of some medians, would require substantial public input.



Finally, she updated the audience on the study of a future new library. While staff and the council have evaluated the need and considered some options, now is the time when public input is essential. The City, she said, is planning a poll to get input from the citizens on what they believe the City needs, and how it can be paid for. There is no question that the City needs a library, she said, but it is important to see what sort of



partnership can develop to make sure any replacement library is affordable and meets the public’s needs.

JANUARY 9, 2018 MEASURE 101

On January 9 The City Club of Springfield and the League of Women voters hosted a forum on Measure 101 at the Wildish Family Theater. Opposing Measure 101 was representative Cedric Hayden. Speaking in support of Measure 101 was former representative Val Hoyle. A little over 50 people attended and were treated to a spirited discussion of the pros and cons of the measure.

Representative Hayden expressed concern that passing Measure 101 would raise tax money that the legislature could apply to issues other than Health Care. He also stated that the burden of paying for 101 would be primarily shouldered by smaller organizations and individuals least likely to be able to pay for it, such as students while larger businesses and unions would be exempt from payment. Representative Hayden also indicated that hospitals would pass on to patients the costs they absorb as a result of the passage of Measure 101.

Representative Hoyle emphasized that Measure 101 was crafted with the collaboration of a broad base of stakeholders including health care organizations, physicians, child advocacy groups, and legislators from both parties after extended discussion. She also stated that failure to pass Measure 101 would leave a budget problem of around \$1.3 billion that would have to be solved relatively quickly by the legislature. Around \$900 million of the \$1.3 billion would come from the federal government as matching funds if Measure 101 passes.

The forum accomplished the goal of exposing local citizens to a full range of considerations related to Measure 101.

Summary by Mike Eyster

JANUARY 18, 2018 THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHORT SESSION

The “short” session of the Oregon Legislative assembly will open on February 5, 2018. In January 18, Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Representative Cedric Hayden (R-Cottage grove) and Representative John Lively (D-Springfield) briefed City Club members on the prospects for the upcoming session.



The overarching question surrounding the beginning of the session was the then upcoming vote on Measure 101. All the legislators agreed that should the Measure fail, dealing with the repercussion would dominate the session. Since the Measure did pass on January 23, the other issues raised by the legislators seem likely to be prominent. Although there have been six bills introduced to deal with issues related to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), none of the legislators believed those bills would clear the legislature. The consensus was that there is simply not enough time to address such a complex issue. By law, the session is limited to 35 days.

Some of the issues likely to be addressed include internet access (Oregon is one of several states considering state legislation to overcome the FCC action to repeal “net neutrality” rules), privacy, and data security. Although cap and trade legislation is likely to be discussed, the consensus was that this is a matter for the 2019 session. The legislators agreed that the Department of Environmental Quality has long been under funded, but the issue is, again, too complex for a short session.

Reps. Hayden and Lively believed that the National Popular Vote bill, which would commit Oregon Presidential electors to vote for the candidate receiving the majority of national votes was unlikely to be addressed. However, Sen. Beyer seem to believe that the issue might be dealt with early in the session by the Senate, leaving potentially time for it to be addressed by the House.

The concern of efficiency in the short session was a theme throughout the conversation. In response to a question, the legislators noted that members of the Senate could introduce two bills in the session, while Representative were limited to one. Even so, when committee bills are added, it is probably that at least 150 to 200 bills would be introduced. Since introduction of a bill, including Legislative Counsel review and drafting, costs at least \$1,000. The fiscal burden of the session is large, given the limited amount of time. None of the legislators saw any prospect for changing the constitutional limits on the session, however.



Springfield City Club

Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2017 — Wildish Community Theater

In Attendance:

Joe Leahy, President Kristin Denmark Callie Elliot
Steve Moe, Treasurer Len Goodwin Carolyn Miller
Dan Egan, Secretary Terry Beyer

1. Call to order: President Leahy called the meeting to order at 11:36 and welcomed Callie Elliot to the board.
2. Approval of previous minutes: The previous minutes were approved through a motion by Len Goodwin and second by Terry Beyer.
3. Financials: Steve Moe is now checking the post office. Steve reviewed the renewed memberships that have been received recently. Joe Leahy took this opportunity to talk about the reimbursement and mechanics behind sending out Thank You cards to Club presenters.
4. Newsletter: The board heard that compliments go to Len for the newsletter of late. Carolyn Miller is helping with proofing and editing the newsletter.
5. Hilton Garden Inn Agreement: President Leahy reviewed the new agreement with the HGI. There was a motion by Len Goodwin, seconded by Dan Egan to accept and sign the new agreement.
6. Program Schedule: The Board explored the next several Club meetings and their subjects into the new year:
 - a. January 4— Gun Safety with Floyd Pozanski. Joe Leahy will moderate; first questioner will be Len Goodwin.
 - b. January 9 —Joint Program with the League of Women Voters at the Wildish Theater.
 - c. January 18 — Legislative Review with Lively, Beyer and Hayden. Moderator will be Terry Beyer; first questioner Kristin Denmark.
 - d. February 1 & 15 — Homelessness
 - e. March 1 — David Brewer and Civil Discourse
 - f. March 15 — Electoral College
 - g. Hamlin Middle School Tour
7. Member Drive: Joe Leahy asked the board to make their calls soon.
8. Board Insurance: Joe Leahy reviewed the costs of securing board insurance. Len Goodwin moved and Carolyn Miller seconded a motion to allow President Leahy to move forward and purchase the best deal to insure the board.
9. Debit Card: The board voted to approve having a debit card to be used for Club business by Len Goodwin.
10. Website: Len reported no update here; the pics and bios of board members have all been received.
11. State-wide City Club: Len continues to stay in touch with other city clubs including connections with the League of Women Voters.
12. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 12:30.

City Club Board of Directors

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