

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 4: CHAMBER UPDATE

Paige Sharpe and Dani Thompson of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce will give an update on the state of local businesses in Springfield.

FEBRUARY 14: TO BE DETERMINED

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change. For current information, click on the agency name which will redirect you to the appropriate web site.

[City of Springfield Council](#)

225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541)726-3700

February 1, 2021

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

FY 20 Audit

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Library Bookmark Contest Winners

FY 20 Audit Approval

Project Acceptances

February 8, 2021

State of the City – 5:30 p.m. (Tentative)

February 16, 2021

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

FY 22 Budget Process

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

PH: FY21 Supplemental Budget 1

PH: ROW Vacation (Hamovitz)

February 22, 2021

Work Session – 5:30 p.m.

Charter Amendment Discussion

Interim Councilor Process Direction

March 1, 2021

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

Budget Committee interviews

Interim Councilor Interviews

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Groundwater Guardians Presentation

ROW Vacation)(2nd Reading)

Interim Councilor deliberations/appointment

MEETINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

As we start the New Year the Springfield Education Foundation is excited to offer the seventh annual Alumni Awards.

These awards provide the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and impacts of truly shining stars that got their start in Springfield Public Schools. The Awards will be presented at the Foundation's 2021 Honor Roll Society Reception in March.

To do we need the community's help. If you know of a graduate of Springfield Public Schools that is making an impact in our community or beyond let us know. Below are the awards we are recruiting for.

Outstanding Alumni Award: Given in recognition of alumni for significant contributions in professional practice, personal achievement and community service.

Rising Alumni Award: Given in recognition of alumni from the class of 2011 or after. These graduates have demonstrated significant potential, through professional accomplishments, academic honors, personal achievement and/or community involvement.

Eligibility

Graduates from Academy of Arts and Academics, Gateways High School, Springfield High School, Thurston High School and Willamette Leadership Academy are eligible for these awards.

Nominations are open year round so if you miss the deadline for this year we will keep your nomination on file for next year.

Visit seflane.org to nominate a Springfield Alum for a Springfield Education Foundation Alumni award.

Questions? Please contact Terry Beyer at terrybeyer@comcast.net

Lane County Board of Commissioners

125 Eighth Avenue
Eugene OR 97401
(541)682-4203

February 2, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
February 9, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
Fire siting standards
Law Enforcement District in Mohawk Valley
February 16, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.,
Hotel for COVID winter warming
PH: Mohawk Valley
February 22, 2021 **No MEETING**

Lane Transit District

3500 E. 17th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97403
(541)687-5555

February 17, 2021 – Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

School District 19 Board of Directors

640 A Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-3201

February 8, 2021 – Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.
February 11, 2021– Budget Comm. Meeting 6:00 p.m.
February 22, 2021 – Work Session 4:00 p.m.

Springfield Utility Board

250 A Street
Springfield OR 97477
(541)746-8451

February 10, 2021 – Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
PH: Electric Rate increase

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

320 S. 32nd Street
Springfield, OR 97478
(541)736-4544

February 10, 2021 – Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Lane Regional Air Protection Authority

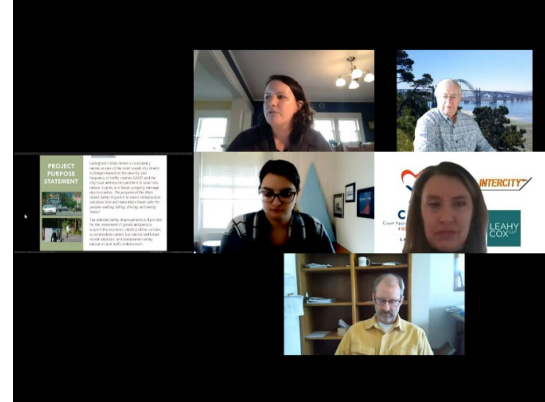
1010 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541)735-1056

February 12, 2021 – Board Meeting 12:15 p.m.

RECENT MEETINGS

JANUARY 7: MAIN STREET SAFETY PROJECT

The Main Street Safety Project has been out of the public eye for some time as staff worked on options for solutions and dealt with the difficulty of reaching the public in the midst of a pandemic. Now, however, it is about to be squarely focused in the public eye again. Molly Markarian, Senior planner for the City of Springfield, and Brian Barnett, the City's Traffic Engineer, briefed Springfield City Club on where the project stands and what steps are next, at



the January 7 program. Public input will be solicited at a series of three online forum on February 9, 10, and 11. These online forums will give citizens their first chance to see the draft solutions that

City staff have worked out with the help of a strategic advisory team of residents, business owners and property owners. Those interested should register for one of the forums by February 5, 2021. Information on registration is found at the project website [Our Main Street Springfield](#).

Staff and the Strategic Advisory Committee have developed a series of short term and long-term recommendations that attempt to balance the needs of safety, traffic mobility and business access. The short-term solutions involve installation of raised center medians throughout most of the corridor which runs from 20th Street to 72nd Street, with additional improvements in various segments of the route, all within the framework of the existing right of way. Plans would be in place to provide for as many breaks in the medians as possible to allow for left turns and U-turns to reduce out of direction travel.

The long-term solutions expand on that by implementing a variety of intersection controls, and additional pedestrian and bicycle facilities. There staff have developed two alternative forms of street cross-section to be used in various places along the corridor. Some of the alternatives will involve the acquisition of additional right of way. Among other things, the proposals would implement roundabouts at some major intersections along the route to further reduce out of direction travel.

The project is a joint effort between the City and the Oregon Department of Transportation, since Main Street is officially a state

highway under the control of ODOT. The timeline of the project anticipates construction over a five-to-20-year period, assuming funding can be identified.



The proposal to install raised medians generated the most questions about the program. Mr. Barnett reported that the studies they have done indicate that raised medians reduce crashes by half and increase delay in trips by no more than 30 seconds. He said that the greatest portion of the crashes on the existing system were rear end and turning movement crashes, attributable to failing to yield and following too closely. Medians are particularly effective in those situations, he said. He did note that the proposals would have as many breaks for left and U-turns as can be accommodated safely to balance the safety concerns with the need to make businesses easily reachable. The challenge in placing medians is that currently businesses that have deliveries by large truck now use the center lane for truck parking for unloading. That would not be possible with medians and truckers would need to park on side streets or risk blocking travel lanes to unload. Some companies might choose to provide smaller trucks to make deliveries along Main street. He acknowledged that businesses had raised concerns about the medians and noted that the decision on project implementation would be made by the City Council and Ms. Markarian added that there would always consider a no-build option.

Several questions were raised about reducing the speed limit on Main street. Mr. Barnett said that ODOT had reduced the speed limit to 35 west of Bob Straub Parkway but added that reducing the speed limit is not always the most effective way to control speed. Both he and Ms. Markarian pointed to changes in the traffic movement environment and the built environment adjoining the street as more effective tools. Roundabouts do have the effect of reducing speed, as does the character of the land adjacent – more trees, improved lighting, more visual objects all have the effect of reducing speed.

Mr. Barnett was asked about the need for additional right of way taken from private property if the City installs roundabouts. Ms. Markarian displayed a conceptual drawing showing alternative intersection forms including a roundabout and noted that in these drawings the roundabout did not require much additional space. Mr. Barnett pointed to the roundabout at Hayden Bridge and Pioneer Parkway which, he said occupied a little more land at the point of the intersection, but much less land some distance away than would a signalized intersection designed to handle the same volume of traffic.

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JANUARY 21 COVID VACCINATIONS

“100 days of relative misery.” That is how Dr. Patrick Luedtke, Lane County senior Public Health Officer, described the next several weeks in Lane County. Even though we have seen two vaccines released, he said the county, and the state, are in the steep part of the curve and will be until spring. To date, over 8,000 Lane County residents have been diagnosed with COVID19. Dr. Luedtke says that data suggests that four of every five infected by the virus are either asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic, suggesting that there are actually over 40,000 infected individuals today in a county with population over 300,000.



These numbers are actually good news, he suggested, noting that had county residents not been so careful to follow guidelines on mask wearing and social distancing, the situation could be much worse. He added that while during the warmer summer months there was probably only a one in 50 chance of being infected without taking precautions, now that we are indoors during the winter months that risk rises to one in two.

Caseloads are apparently growing much more rapidly than vaccinations. Now cases are going up by 1,000 every thirteen days. So far vaccinations are running a few hundred each week, although he expects we might get as many as 5,000 doses

in the next week. There is still a shortage in supply, although he says that a third vaccine may release the results of its stage three trials (the last stage before a vaccine may be given emergency approval) as early as next week. A fourth vaccine is also nearing the end of stage three trials and may be available in a few weeks.

DR. Luedtke cautioned that the increase in number of vaccinations should not cause the public to relax following the mask and social distancing restrictions. He said the vaccines that have been and will be approved have been shown to be 95 percent effective against preventing COVID 19 disease (a rate that is vastly better than for other vaccines such as that for whooping cough). Even so, the vaccines have NOT been tested for the ability to prevent infection, meaning that science cannot yet know whether vaccinated individuals can still transmit the disease to others. Dr. Luedtke said it may well be the fall before the goal of 300,000 vaccinations in Lane County can be achieved. He urged anyone who is vaccinated to sign up for the VSafe program, an application which runs on any cell phone that will make it possible to track vaccinated individuals and see if they still contribute to the growth in the number of infections. Vaccinated individuals can get information on how to sign up for the program [HERE](#).

The Governor's new guidance which places teachers at the front of the line for vaccination was the topic of several questions. Dr. Luedtke said the changes followed on several rounds of discussion by a panel of providers on the ethical questions of how to distribute the vaccine most effectively and equitably. He does not expect further changes, and he noted that being in a priority group and getting a vaccination are not coextensive since there remains such a limited supply. While seniors by age group are in the priority list for vaccination starting February 8 for those over 80, that is dependent on vaccines being available.

Dr. Luedtke pointed out that typically an adult begins to lose one percent of lung function every year after age 25. These means that aging populations are increasingly vulnerable to serious consequences if they become infected.

There still is some lack of clarity on eligibility for vaccination. It is not clear whether higher education teachers are included in the priority group, although Dr. Luedtke suspects they are. Similarly, it is not clear whether non-teaching staff in education settings are in the same priority as teachers. Dr. Luedtke did say that at present the University of Oregon is not receiving a separate vaccine allocation so they will fit in as appropriate with other Lane County residents. A question was raised about singling out multi-generational households, to which Dr. Luedtke said he would pursue that topic in future discussion with the Oregon Health Authority.

DR. Luedtke urged listeners to keep in contact with their primary care providers to stay up to date on when they might be able to receive a vaccine. For those who do not have a primary care provider, he urged them to follow developments on the [Lane County Public Health web page](#) or, if they have no internet access, to keep in touch with safety net providers like White Bird clinic.

For now, efforts with the unhoused population have focused on infection control to reduce the chances of infection. As more vaccine becomes available, those individuals will be included in appropriate groups to receive the shots.

Finally, Dr. Luedtke reminded the audience that vaccines are not interchangeable. He said that for now, given the limited supply individuals will not have an opportunity to select which vaccine they get and when a second shot is required it must be of the same vaccine as the first shot.

City Club Board of Directors

President	Heather Murphy	heatherm@casa-lane.org	
President-Elect	Callie Barry Elliott	celliott@columbiabank.com	(541) 984-2270
Past President	Kristin Denmark	kdenmark@thorp-purdy.com	(541) 747-3354
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Director	Terry Beyer	terrybeyer@comcast.net	(541) 746-5889
Director	Merlyn Hough	merlyn@lrapa.org	(541) 736-1056
Director	Nick Nelson	nick@nicknelsonrealestate.com	(541) 852-9394
Director	Paige Sharpe	paige@springfield-chamber.org	(541) 746-1651
Director			

Minutes
Board of Directors
Springfield City Club
December 1, 2020 – Zoom

Present:

Heather Murphy	Callie Elliott	Kristin Denmark	Bob Fondren
Len Goodwin	Terry Beyer	Paige Sharpe	Mark Molina
Nick Nelson	Merlyn Hough		

Guests: Joe Leahy

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

On a motion by Mark, seconded by Len, the minutes of the November meeting prepared by Paige were approved as presented.

Bob reviewed the Financial Report. Still in fairly good condition although balance is declining because we have not yet sent out renewal reminders Those should go out this week. Joe pointed out we need to send something more informative and inviting than a simple invoice. Heather will be preparing both a letter to go with invoices and a year-end report. On a motion by Len, seconded by Mark, the report was approved unanimously.

Joe asked what we were doing for sponsors to reward the for their larger contribution. Len will investigate the possibility of a ticker below the Zoom window and Heather will plan on mentioning a couple of sponsors in her welcome. She will start with Willamalane and select business members from the list.

The Board discussed including a survey with the year-end report. Consider in survey – try to broadcast on You Tube versus Facebook. Is some perceived antipathy to Facebook; see if are better served by You tube instead of Facebook. 1-5 rate satisfaction level with virtual programming. Is there something different we could do to make more likely that members would show up. Do you watch live or watch recorded version? We have stuck with lunch hour. If we are virtual is there a better time for our membership. Who can come up with format? Len has done many Survey Monkey surveys. Mark will craft questions.

The Board discussed vacancies. There is one vacancy and will be a second once Mark resigns because he will assume his elected office as a member of the SUB Board. After some discussion it was agreed that Mark will approach Johanis Tadeo and Nick will approach Mavis Sanchez from Willamalane to see if they are interested.

Upcoming Programs:

December 3 – Legislative preview

Have all three legislators confirmed. Heather will do welcome; Terry will introduce, and Mark will facilitate Q&A.

December 10 – Chief Lewis

Mark will do welcome and intro. Nick will facilitate questions

January 7 – Main Street Safety project

Heather will welcome, Len will do Intro and Paige will facilitate Q&A.

January 21 Had originally talked about redistricting. It makes sense to move that program to the first meeting in February and invite the new Mayor, once one is selected in early January, to present on January 21.

There was no update on the Statewide consortium.

For next months newsletter we will include the year-end report and survey.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,
Secretary