

## Season's Greetings!

I hope that everyone is looking forward to the new year ahead.

I am very proud of how quickly and efficiently Springfield City Club responded to COVID-19 restrictions by offering virtual programming. The board felt that it was important to provide current and pertinent information to our members. We hope that you were able to join us for programs that included candidates running for public office as well as city, county and school officials who informed us about the fires, COVID response, protests and school changes. We also heard from local business owners, experts on topics such as virus prevention in buildings and a representative from Black Unity. We continued to partner with the League of Women Voters and the Eugene City Club to bring statewide and congressional representatives to meetings.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to diversifying our programming and membership and we need your help. We have developed a quick survey with questions about program topics, meeting formats and timing. Please assist us in bringing interesting, relevant and informative speakers to you. We will send that survey separately.

We want to expand our membership. We hope that you will invite people that you know to attend a program. Think outside of the box and extend an invitation to someone that you may have considered for City Club before. Meetings will remain virtual for now and it is easy to tune in. In January we will hear from the new mayor of Springfield and Emma Newman will talk about the Main Street safety project.

Please view City Club as an opportunity to invite new voices to the table. With all of the division we are experiencing, providing a forum to learn from each other and understand differing viewpoints will ultimately strengthen our community.

On behalf of the board, thank you for your membership and participation in Springfield City Club

*Warmest wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2021!*

*Heather Murphy  
President – Springfield City Club*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### JANUARY 7 – MAIN STREET SAFETY PROJECT

Main Street is consistently ranked as one of the most unsafe city streets in Oregon based on the severity and frequency of traffic crashes. The City of Springfield and the Oregon Department of Transportation launched the Main Street Safety Project to address this safety problem to save lives, reduce injuries, and lessen property damage. Community engagement is vital to inform the selection of infrastructure solutions that help to ensure safe, accessible transportation for everyone, whether by foot, bike, mobility device, bus, or car!



Based on feedback from the project's second round of community engagement, the City knows that safety continues to be a key concern in our community, but possible infrastructure elements need to reflect a balanced approach to improve safety and support business/economic development. The project team used this feedback to refine the possible safety elements and overall infrastructure solutions. At the Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>

City Club meeting, Molly Markarian, the lead planner on the project, will review and seek your feedback on the draft solution "toolbox" and recommendations.

### JANUARY 21 – TO BE DETERMINED

We have asked the Springfield City Manager to see if we can invite the new Mayor to speak, assuming one is selected by that time.

## 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.

**Many boards continue to meet online as the County emerges from the restrictions on activity. Please see the guide on page 3 for information on how to connect.**

### [City of Springfield Council](#)

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

January 4, 2021  
Work Session 6:00 p.m.  
Regular Session 7:00p.m.  
Swearing in of Council  
Appointment of Council President

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

January 11, 2021  
Executive Session 7:00 p.m

January 19, 2021  
Work Session 6:00 p.m.  
TID Presentation  
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.  
Project acceptances  
Interim Mayoral Appointment

January 25, 2021  
Work Session 5:30 p.m.  
FY22 Budget

February 1, 2021  
Work session 6:00 p.m.  
FY 20 Audit  
Regular Session 7:00 p.m.  
Library Bookmark Contest Winners  
Audit Approval

**Lane County Board of Commissioners**

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

January 4, 2021  
Swearing in of Elected Officials  
State of the County Address  
January 5, 2021 9:00 a.m.  
January 12, 2021 9:00 a.m.  
January 19, 2021 NO MEETING  
January 26, 2021 9:00 a.m.  
Redistricting Timeline

**Lane Transit District**

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

**School District 19 Board of Directors**

640 A Street  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541) 726-3201  
January 11, 2021 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Springfield Utility Board**

250 A Street  
Springfield OR 97477  
(541)746-8451  
January 13, 2021 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Willamalane Park and Recreation District**

320 S. 32nd Street  
Springfield, OR 97478  
(541)736-4544  
January 13, 2021 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**Lane Regional Air Protection Authority**

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

Board meeting January 14, 2021 12:15 p.m.

**RECENT MEETINGS**

**DECEMBER 3 – LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW**



On December 3 City Club hosted three local legislators – Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Representative Cedric Hayden (R- Cottage

Grove) and Representative John Lively (D-Springfield) for a preview of the upcoming legislative session. Several significant issues appear to be crowding the agenda (for which over 4,000 bills have already been filed). What emerged as major issues in the discussion were the budget (which Sen. Beyer looks a little worse); dealing with major concerns about housing and healthcare (particularly mental health); wildfire and forest management; implementing Measure 110(which decriminalizes many actives that would have been drug offense); small business relief; and redistricting.

As crowded as that agenda is, there remains uncertainty about how the Legislature will Salem maybe once a week to cast votes. The legislators hope to be back in Salem by April, but that remains uncertain.

In response to a question from the audience Sen. Beyer noted that the Governor’s budget proposes to close three prisons during the current biennium. He assured the audience that the closures were, in large part, because the need for inmate space has declined. He said that if the proposal goes through, which he said is far from certain at this time, violent offenders would not be released and that, in most cases, those released would have been convicted of crimes that would no longer beailable offenses under Measure 110.

Representative Hayden observed that releases could compound the problems of homelessness and housing if these individuals have no place to return to in the outside world. there could be some value in closing those facilities, particularly If the savings could be used to improve mental health programs and support for small businesses, particularly in rural counties. He said that some money could be diverted into supporting fire prevention jobs in rural areas, to help alleviate the concern about wildfires in the coming months.



The intertwined issues of housing supply and homelessness were clearly a major concern, but no clear solutions were offered.



The uncertainty of continued federal assistance was an issue noted by Representative Lively. It is essential to continue many of the programs founded by

the federal CARES Act, he said, particularly those that support small businesses, which are not presently funded in the Governor's budget according to Rep. Lively. If federal relief is not forthcoming (and he and Sen. Beyer noted the Governor's budget is heavily reliant on continued federal aid) a challenging budget situation could become much worse. Rep. Lively said there may be a need to target an y future round of Payroll Protection Plan funding at services industries – restaurants and bars, barbershops, and other personal service businesses. Rep. Lively said that the Emergency Board recently created a simplified process to distribute the last \$20 million in funding, but that the system was overwhelmed only 20 minutes after it opened with h \$95 million in applications.

All three legislators seemed confident that the Legislature could successfully craft a redistricting plan without letting the issue default to the Secretary of State, although Sen, Beyer noted that there may be some difficulty getting the necessary data

in a timely fashion, given the issues that have arisen in completing the 2020 census. Each legislator expressed some level of support for an independent redistricting commission, although they noted that issue had failed to make the ballot in 2020 and is not likely to have great support in the legislature.

**December 10 – Springfield Police Chief Rick Lewis**



Police Chief Rick Lewis told the Springfield City Club that the project to install body cameras remains on target, although the February timeline for implementation might slip slightly into March. At the December 10 program, Chief Lewis pointed to two reason for the timeline being so tight. First, while they received a \$120,000 grant, grant implementation introduced some delays. Second, during the process they discovered that body cameras alone were not an adequate solution. The decided that it was necessary to also install in-car video cameras, to capture the moments before an enforcement contact with the public. He said that he was somewhat surprised that studies of departments that have already implemented cameras did not show any real reduction in the number of interactions once the cameras were in place.

In response to a question, Chief Lewis said that the cameras would not be turned on constantly but must be activated by an officer. He said that it was important not to have the cameras on in certain situations, like interviewing sexual assault victims or when interviewing in a hospital setting. He said that department policy required that the cameras be activated if an officer

**ATTENDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

**To view Springfield City Council meetings:** On the Thursday before the meeting, the Council agenda is posted [here](#). The agenda will contain the information to link to the live stream of the meeting.

**To view meetings of the Lane County Board of Commissioners,** go to this [link](#) for connection information

**To view Lane Transit District Board meetings,** go to the [Events Calendar](#) and click on the meeting you want to attend for information on the Zoom link

**To view School District 19 Board meetings:** on the Thursday or Friday before the meeting go to the [Board Meeting Calendar](#), locate the meeting agenda and you will find the Zoom link to join the meeting.

**To listen to Willamalane Board meetings:**

On a telephone or cell phone, dial 541-736-4490

When prompted, enter the conference ID: 85238 followed by the # sign

**To listen to SUB Board meetings:**

Dial in using your phone: Dial 1.978.990.5373

Enter the Access Code: 2355961#

**To view LRAPA meetings:**

Below are instructions for participation: Click on this link from your desktop: <https://zoom.us/j/2234449160>

## **City Club Minutes**

**11/3/20**

Members in attendance: Bob Fondren, Paige Sharpe, Kristen Denmark, Nick Nelson, Terry Beyer, Heather Murphy, Mark Molina

Call to Order: Heather Murphy 11:34

*Motion to pass the October minutes as presented by Nick Nelson, seconded by Bob Fondren. Motion passed unanimously.*

Agenda addition: State Farm Insurance (Renewal Premium Proposal of \$547)

*Motion by Bob Fondren to have Heather Murphy sign for express renewal with State Farm Insurance, seconded by Terry Beyer.*

Discussion to certify that no changes have been made in organizational structure or mission. There is no evidence that the switch to zoom qualifies as a change in structure. This insurance protects board members from liability.

*Heather Murphy called for a vote on the previously presented motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Financial Report – Bob Fondren**

City Club of Springfield has over \$1700 in assets. Bills have not been sent out yet due to COVID and the fires. Bookkeeping and merchant fees for the month totaled just over \$200.

Discussion if it is time to begin sending out renewal bills. The letter that goes out with the invoice could include language about contacting board chair, Heather Murphy, with any financial concerns about renewing membership.

Kristen Denmark will find the cover letter template for attaching to invoices. Heather will edit and send the letter to Bob Fondren, to forward to Bean Counter bookkeeping service.

### **Membership Drive**

Discussion regarding strategies for engaging and encouraging new members. The current membership is at 35, including 8 corporate memberships. Suggestions for engagement included a year in review document to be sent out by current president to members; including a member survey with the emailed renewal invoices; encouraging university and college students to participate in club meetings; developing a board member outreach strategy; and investing in an online payment portal for memberships.

### **Board Member Vacancy:**

Discussion regarding bylaws stating elected officials are not allowed to serve on City Club board. Mark Molina, if elected to SUB board, will need to vacate the City Club Board of Directors, creating an additional vacancy.

*Action Item: Mark Molina and Nick Nelson will bring a list of potential board candidates to the Board.*

### **Programming**

November Lane Link Program: Robert Killen introduction by Nick Nelson, and questions by Mark Molina

December 10<sup>th</sup> Program: Police Chief Lewis is confirmed

January Topics – Legislative Redistricting (Jan 21<sup>st</sup>) presented by the league of women voters. Main Street Safety (Jan 7<sup>th</sup>) presented by Emma Newman. An additional program can be added in January, or wait until February for a presentation by the new Mayor.

December newsletter article volunteer: Mark Molina

Meeting Adjourned at 12:36pm



*MEETINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3*

anticipated contacting a member of the public for enforcement and added that once the camera was activated it would record about 30 seconds of video before the officer activated the camera.

Chief Lewis expressed some concern about the size of the force. He said that at the moment they were 12 positions below normal staffing levels due to retirements and officers leaving the profession. He did say that a recent recruitment had been very successful, producing four new candidates, but noted that it is at least 10 months between the time a candidate is selected, and they are able to operate on their own on the streets. Police response to demonstrations during the summer and the overall issue of use of force were major topics for questioners from the audience. Chief Lewis, while saying he did not want to get out in front of the report by an independent consultant on the July incident in Thurston, said the department has learned many things from the recent social protests. "We have to realize ow quickly life is changing," he said. There was a major change in the perception of the police following the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis, he added. Before that, the primary perception of the police was that they were doing an important and difficult job. Afterwards that incident police seem to be caught in the middle between opposing sides in the social debate.

Concerns about potential disparate treatment by police based on factors such as race was also a major topic of interest from the audience. While Chief Lewis said he believed the department was doing well, he noted that there are cases where disparate treatment occurs, based on circumstances. For example, he said enforcement action would be unlikely against a protest marching down the streets, while were a single individual to wander out in the streets and try to interfere with movement of traffic, they would probably be arrested.

He added that the State of Oregon has mandated a reporting process for officer-initiated traffic and pedestrian stops to discern if there are racial or ethnic disparities. The recently released [Statistical Transparency of Policing Report](#) (click on the link to view) did not disclose any concerns for Springfield he said, although he added that just because the report was good, it did not eliminate concerns and officers must remain vigilant to achieve equal enforcement.

Chief Lewis responded to several questions about specific incidents in the recent past we citizens felt concerns, although he noted on some occasions that because litigation was pending, or charges have been filed against involved individuals it was inappropriate for him to comment.

Chief Lewis was supportive of the efforts of CAHOOTS in Springfield and said they had a great deal of support from officers on the street. Finally, he said that the department was working to improve transparency be making its policy manual available online to the public and looking for new ways that the public can register concerns about police activity.

**CITY CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT	HEATHER MURPHY	<a href="mailto:HEATHERM@CASA-LANE.ORG">HEATHERM@CASA-LANE.ORG</a>	
PRESIDENT-			
ELECT	CALLIE BARRY ELLIOTT	<a href="mailto:CELLIOTT@COLUMBIABANK.COM">CELLIOTT@COLUMBIABANK.COM</a>	(541) 984-2270
PAST PRESIDENT	KRISTIN DENMARK	<a href="mailto:KDENMARK@THORP-PURDY.COM">KDENMARK@THORP-PURDY.COM</a>	5417473354
TREASURER	BOB FONDREN	<a href="mailto:BOBF@SUBUTIL.COM">BOBF@SUBUTIL.COM</a>	5417443610
SECRETARY	LEN GOODWIN	<a href="mailto:LOCALCITIZENOR@GMAIL.COM">LOCALCITIZENOR@GMAIL.COM</a>	5419158956
DIRECTOR	TERRY BEYER	<a href="mailto:TERRYBEYER@COMCAST.NET">TERRYBEYER@COMCAST.NET</a>	5417465889
DIRECTOR	MERLYN HOUGH	<a href="mailto:MERLYN@LRAPA.ORG">MERLYN@LRAPA.ORG</a>	5417361056
DIRECTOR	NICK NELSON	<a href="mailto:NICK@NICKNELSONREALESTATE.COM">NICK@NICKNELSONREALESTATE.COM</a>	5418529394
DIRECTOR	MARK MOLINA	<a href="mailto:MARK@MOLINALEADERSHIP.COM">MARK@MOLINALEADERSHIP.COM</a>	5416538899
DIRECTOR	PAGE SHARPE	<a href="mailto:PAIGE@SPRINGFIELD-CHAMBER.ORG">PAIGE@SPRINGFIELD-CHAMBER.ORG</a>	5417461651
DIRECTOR			