



River West
Neighborhood Association

Annual General Meeting
January 29, 2009, 6:30pm
Westside Magnet School
(Kingston School) Gym

Topic: City of Bend Budget Cuts and the Recession

Board Member Introductions:

- Tyler Blackwell, Vice-Chair, Database Manager
- Rachel Stemach, Secretary, Treasurer
- Bill Kurtz, Membership
- Leslie Olson, Stacey Stemach, Land-Use Committee
- Annie Goldner, General Meeting Organizer
- Edith McBean, Business Liaison
- Sue Vordenberg, Parks & Recreation
- Cassie Giddings, 2030 Vision Liaison
- Sami Fornier, Kate Bailey, Paul Biscup, Traffic Safety Committee
- Kelly Powell, 12th & Union Triangle

Guest Presenters Introductions:

- Sharon Wojda - impact on budget & planning
- Hardy Hanson - impact on streets, snow & water/sewer service
- Brian Shetterly (substituting for Mel Oberst) - impact on Community Development

Additional Guests (with displays):

- Family Access Network (FAN) Foundation - Family Advocates for all Deschutes County public schools; Bill Belli, Development Specialist
- Bend Metro Parks & Rec District (BMPRD) - plans and renderings depicting new Veteran's Memorial at Brooks Park; Robin Laughlin, Project Manager

Memberships and Attendance:

- 27 current members attended (including board members)
- 13 new members
- 40+ total attendees

Bylaws Ratification:

- Ratified at the beginning of the General Meeting

Information regarding any City department, whether its current issues, budget information, development code, frequently asked questions, etc., can be found on the City of Bend website: <http://www.ci.bend.or.us/depts/>

Sharon Wojda - Budget & Financial Planning Manager

- Main revenue sources for General Fund are from property taxes (but not city-wide)
- City has held financial strategy sessions on budget cuts
- Expenditures - can only cut programs, not services
 - Funds reserved for police, fire department, streets, transit, and long range planning.
- Community Development services - reduced work force by 44%.
 - 18% were removed from one specific function (planning or building). Overall, between layoffs and not filling vacancies, that staff has reduced staff by 44%.
- Stormwater fees - are only for storm utilities, with restricted spending uses, by law
- Juniper Ridge - has separate fund from other sources, and a line of credit through banks
- During hard times, people get creative with saving money

Hardy Hanson - Streets/ Stormwater Division Manager

- Backflow testing devices - mandatory testing is for water safety, required by federal law, not for fee collection
- Public Works services - effects quality of life for Bend residents
 - Water, sewer, traffic, sidewalks, etc.
 - 8 departments altogether, including engineering, water quality testing, public transit, streets division, stormwater, transportation engineering, water division, water reclamation (sewer)
 - Street sweeping may have future cuts (effects cleanliness, water quality, bikelanes)
 - Roads consist of 800 miles in-city, including painting, crosswalks, storm drains, sweeping, sanding and snow removal
- Stormwater Master Plan review meetings occurring 1/29 and 2/05
 - Drywells - design and land-use issue
- ODOT turned over Third Street underpass to City. Goal is to reroute stormwater to Colorado Bridge
- Snow Removal - December '08 removal cost \$107,000
- Budget cuts options: city landscaping cut and close to elimination altogether, snow removal future cuts
- City Council looks to Public Works department first for cuts in order to keep police and fire services
- \$2.7 million needed to keep streets at current condition level (another \$1 million may need to be cut also)
- Potholes hotline - 317-3000

Brian Shetterly - Long Range Planning manager

- Planning division reviews site plan applications for development code conformance
- Building division includes inspections, building plans examiners and code review
- Every Oregon city has to follow code adopts by state and development codes
- Between 2006-2008, 6,000 people added to Bend's population, and is still growing despite the economic downturn
- Community Development is funded by permits fees for building planning fees and general fund (with subsidies)

- Budget - \$7 million total for planning and development
- Since 2007 - lay offs include more than 50% of employees and possibly more
- Materials and services budget reduced 75%, no overtime, no new hires
- Building permits are down 20%, planning is down 30%
- Long Range Planning - not slow, due to Urban Growth Boundary expansion for 20-year growth (mandated by the state)

Ideas and suggestions for opportunities during a recession

- Shop local to support neighborhood businesses
- Discounts at neighborhood stores
- Neighborhood float during Christmas Parade
- Local businesses listed on websites with links
- Picnics, street fairs, Art hop

Business Members “Thank You” to:

- Kent Herman - Kanpai & Chow, Top Spin Tennis
- Walt Blind - Ray’s Food Place
- Annie Goldner - Hillside Inn
- Cassie Giddings - BendTel

Don’t Forget That....

- “River West Neighborhood Association Member, Shop Local” stickers are available
- RWNA needs to remind businesses that membership is FREE, no membership dues!
- RWNA Good Samaritan Program - for help with snow removal, groceries, etc....