

A regular meeting of the Astoria Common Council was held at the above place at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

Councilors Present: LaMear, Herzig, Warr, Mellin, Mayor Van Dusen

Staff Present: City Manager Benoit, Community Development Director Brett Estes, Public Works Director Cook, Fire Chief Ames, Police Chief Curzon, Maintenance Supervisor Elkins, Finance Director Carlson, and City Attorney Henningsgaard. The meeting is recorded and will be transcribed by ABC Transcription Services, Inc.

#### REPORTS OF COUNCILORS:

**Item 3(a): Councilor Warr** No report

**Item 3(b): Councilor Mellin** attended a meeting regarding parking at the library where many people attended and spoke about their concerns. Community Development Director Estes listened to each concern, some of which were quite emotional. She believed those who attended left the meeting satisfied. She commended Director Estes for how he handled the meeting and for treating those with concerns with respect.

**Item 3(c): Councilor Herzig** announced that on Sunday, March 24, 2013 at the Judge Boynton Building, the Lower Columbia Diversity Project will host a presentation by representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and ODOT. Area cities have been invited to send representatives to give updates on how they have implemented the diversity resolution passed in 2011. Flyers were made available on the table.

**Item 3(d): Councilor LaMear** attended a successful benefit dinner and auction at Astoria High School on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for the 14 students working to get to Waldorf, Germany this summer.

**Item 3(e): Mayor Van Dusen** reported that the City of Astoria was honored by the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing of the Portland Air National Guard at an event held in February. The Air Guard is working to spread the word about the work it does and how important that work is. There are 22 F-15 planes stationed in Portland and 25 stationed in Klamath Falls that serve the entire northwest, including Alaska, and are vital to the area's defense. These planes are armed and are in use every day. One example of the Air Guard's work was when six F-15s circled Seattle during the entire time that President Obama visited Seattle, 48 hours prior to his arrival and 12 hours after his departure. A logo was created by Public Affairs Graphic Artist Master Sergeant Eric Simmons for the City of Astoria that was painted on one of the planes. He distributed material from the event and presented several photos of the event, describing the details of each photo. Mayor Van Dusen was presented with a plaque that he displayed. The inscription on the plaque read, "Mayor of Astoria, Willis L. Van Dusen, the proud men and women of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing thank the City of Astoria towards continuing support of the Oregon Air National Guard, February 21, 2013." The Air Guard thanked the community of Astoria for its support of the entire military. The Air Guard knew about Astoria becoming a Coast Guard City, which led to the Air National Guard's interest in including the City of Astoria in this event.

Mayor Van Dusen presented the plaque and a logo that can be applied to a vehicle. The logo is not the City logo; however, it can be used as the City chooses. The Oregon Air National Guard offered to do a fly-over for any event, and he suggested doing it in October.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA:** None

#### PROCLAMATIONS:

**Item 5(a): Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**

Mayor Van Dusen read the proclamation declaring the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

**Item 5(b): Centenary of the Founding of the Ghadar Party in Astoria**

Councilor Mellin noted she gave a presentation about the Ghadar Party at a prior City Council meeting. She gave a brief summary of that presentation and explained that Sikhs from Punjab, India formed a political party, called the Ghadar Party, while residing in Astoria. This party contributed to the end of British occupation in India. The first week of October 2013, an event will be held in celebration of the formation of the Ghadar Party in Astoria.

Mayor Van Dusen read the proclamation declaring 2013 as the Centenary of the Founding of the Ghadar Party in Astoria, Oregon.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Item 6(a): Mom's Club – Lindstrom Park Restroom**

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Elkins, 64 NW Elm, Warrenton, introduced Sara Lambert of the Mom's Club. The Parks Department has partnered with the Mom's Club to gain City Council support for a new restroom facility in Fred Lindstrom Park.

Sarah Lambert, President, Mom's Club of Astoria, 1140 Nautical Drive, Hammond, explained that the Mom's Club is a non-profit group that supports one another as well as the community. The group has hosted blood drives, planted a carrot garden the food bank, initiated the Port of Play, and helped raise funds for the Astor School playground. The Mom's Club would like to begin fundraising to help build a restroom at Fred Lindstrom Park. Only occasionally, the park will have a portable toilet available and the nearby Peter Pan Market will sometimes allow park patrons to use their restroom facilities; however, the market encourages park patrons to make a purchase, which can be difficult for some mothers. The Mom's Club has distributed letters to residents within a two-block radius of the park and only received positive responses. Some residents had questions about where the proposed restroom facility would be located. At this time, the Mom's Club is only seeking the Council's support to get started. The Mom's Club plans to raise funds through grants, donations from local businesses, and some fundraising events. The Club would like to work with the City and the Parks Department to manage the project and get the facility built.

Maintenance Supervisor Elkins added that Tongue Point Job Corps may be able to assist with construction or donate some materials. A partnership between the Parks Department, Mom's Club, Tongue Point, and other local groups would enable this project to be completed.

Councilor Warr and Councilor Mellin agreed this was a great idea. Councilor Herzig stated he lives a block from Fred Lindstrom Park and does not prefer the portable toilet, which falls over and is unsightly. The park is beautiful, so the design and location of the restroom facility should be carefully considered. He stated the up and coming Parks and Recreation Director will address the maintenance, which will be an issue. Having a real restroom will be a blessing compared to the portable toilet.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Herzig, seconded by Councilor LaMear, to support the Mom's Club of Astoria in their fundraising efforts towards a permanent restroom facility at Fred Lindstrom Park. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

Jim Krettler stated Fred Lindstrom was Parks Director for 21 years before he passed away in 1995. Mayor Van Dusen added that Mr. Lindstrom was born and raised about a block from Lindstrom Park and played basketball at the University of Oregon. Recalling the Proclamation Item 5(a), he noted that Mr. Lindstrom died of colon cancer.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

The following items were presented on the Consent Calendar:

- 7 (a) City Council Minutes 3/4/13
- 7 (b) **Resolution Eliminating Fund 260, Aquatic Facility Debt Service Fund (Finance)**
- 7 (c) Resolution Eliminating Fund 182, CSO Phase 3 11793 (Finance)
- 7 (d) Resolution Eliminating Fund 406, Senior Center Endowment Fund (Finance)

City Manager Benoit clarified that Item 7(d) did not have anything to do with the construction of the Senior Center. Councilor LaMear requested that Item 7(b) be removed for further discussion.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Mayor Van Dusen, to approve Items 7(a), (c), and (d) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin, and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

**Item 7(b): Resolution Eliminating Fund 260, Aquatic Facility Debt Service Fund (Finance)**

Councilor LaMear understood that the bonds for the Aquatic Center are now paid in full and that CSO monies are being transferred from the completed Denver Street CSO project to the new phase of the CSO project. City Manager Benoit confirmed that was correct.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Herzig, to approve Item 7(b) of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin, and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

**Item 8(a): Consideration of Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Grant Agreement for Renovation of the Senior Center (Community Development)**

At its December 3, 2012 meeting, City Council authorized the submittal of a grant to Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) for the renovation of the Astoria Senior Center. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) would provide, if approved, \$1.5 million for major improvements including the installation of a kitchen and dining facility in the basement, an elevator, structural and roof repairs, asbestos removal, heating, electrical and plumbing improvements and other work.

The grant was submitted by the December 31, 2012 deadline and the City was informed on February 20, 2013 that the full \$1.5 million has been approved. Attached to this memorandum is the CDBG grant contract. It has been reviewed and approved as to form by City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard. If accepted, the work could begin in September or October of 2013 and be completed in the spring of 2014. Loaves and Fishes, which currently operates the senior meal program in the basement of Peace Lutheran Church, would move their operation to the basement of the Senior Center upon completion. It is recommended that the City Council approve the grant contract with IFA for renovation of the Senior Center.

City Manager Benoit stated that Mayor Van Dusen and City Council have been aggressive in their focus on Staff to obtain grants wherever possible, particularly for necessary projects, which really helps Astoria taxpayers.

Mayor Van Dusen called for public comment regarding the Senior Center. [Necessary to understand why she is speaking.]

Jean Dominey, 3647 Duane, explained that Sister Patricia McCann was instrumental in the establishment of the Astoria Senior Center complexes. She was appointed to the Governor's Area Agency on Aging and testified nationally and statewide. Sister McCann was also active in the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. Ms. Dominey thanked the City for the maintenance and support of the Senior Center over the past years. However, she had two concerns:

- She asked if there was any definitive plan in effect to provide for the seniors during the eight months of construction. Many people who use the Senior Center have very little outside abilities and finances for social contact. She believed a plan needed to be in effect.
- She also asked if there would be a contract agreement between the Senior Center and City that ensures the building will be retained for use as a Senior Center when renovations are complete. There have been times when a building has been renovated, then sold. The seniors should be able to stay in this building. She respectfully asked Council to see that a written contract that the seniors will be provided in that building and not asked to purchase a building on their own.

City Manager Benoit responded that the Senior Center's Board of Directors is extremely capable. The Board is very focused on opportunities for relocation during construction. He and Community Development Director Estes

met with the Board last week to discuss the relocation possibilities and the City supports the Board's efforts. This grant obligates the City to ensure that the building remains a Senior Center for a minimum of six years. After six years, City Council could decide on an agreement. The City will be working with the Board to present this to City Council.

Ms. Dominey believed the City is responsible for providing input on the relocation and that the seniors cooperate. The seniors do not have enough funds to pay for a new location. The Parks Department provides facilities for youth and middle-aged people, so they should be obligated to assist with finding a new location. This should not be the sole responsibility of the Senior Center.

- She expressed concern about the six-year grant contract. The City owns the building, not the seniors. The City is applying for the grant and using the building as a senior center to get the grant. She believes responsibility rests with the City. She noted that she is expressing her personal opinion. She is a member of the Senior Center but has done quite a bit of legal work. She is concerned with having a contractual agreement and does not want the City to stop providing for the seniors in six years.

Don McDaniel, 1268 Kensington, Treasurer, Senior Center, stated he has been involved in this project from the beginning. The building was acquired by the City through a federal grant under the administration of Edith Henningsgaard. The Board is working on an interim senior center facility. Only one building owner has been contacted to date; however, several buildings have been identified as possibilities. Their goal is to find a facility that will not cost anything, but there will be moving costs.

- A Building Committee has been established and it is comprised of Loaves and Fishes and Senior Center Board members. This committee will work with the architect to develop plans that will meet the requirements of both organizations. The Senior Center has also been working Community Development Director Estes and City Manager Benoit.
- The building does belong to the City and must remain under the ownership of the City for the duration of the grant. During this time, the building must operate as a senior center with a meal facility. This will be more convenient to the seniors. He believed that this requirement could last longer than six years. The Board is confident that this will work well for the seniors and the City. The City has been supportive and cooperative. The Senior Center, Loaves and Fishes, and the City have a good partnership.

Mayor Van Dusen thanked Ms. Dominey and Mr. McDaniel for their work at the Senior Center.

Councilor Herzig read several requirements of the Special Conditions of award of the Community Facility Grant, Exhibit A, Item 10, including that the City provide documentation that the building meets the national objective of benefit to low and moderate income persons and that a detailed citizen participation plan must be followed. He asked if mechanisms for tracking the required data and encouraging citizen participation were being developed. He talked to several citizens who were unaware that this project was being funded by a grant. He

City Manager Benoit explained that 400 pages of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines apply to this grant. The City will hire a HUD Grant Manager to assist the City with following all of the guidelines. He clarified that Community Development Block Grant monies could only be used for low and moderate-income projects. For this purpose, under HUD regulations, seniors are automatically defined as low and moderate-income residents. The City must continue to communicate that the target population this grant refers to are seniors. The City has met with the Board and will be partnering with the steering committee to hold public forums.

Councilor Herzig stated that the City needs to speak to the members of the Senior Center, not just the Board. It is important that the seniors are a part of the process. The public needs to know what is going on. The City has not been doing a good job of communicating that grant money is funding this project.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor Warr, seconded by Councilor LaMear to approve the grant contract with IFA for renovation of the Senior Center. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

**Item 8(b): Authorization to Solicit Bids – Upper Ridge Slowdown Timber Removal (Public Works)**

During the summer of 2012, The Campbell Group clear cut a large area adjacent to watershed ownership. Wind events this winter caused significant blowdown adjacent to the recent Campbell Group harvests. A majority of the down trees are hemlock, which decay rapidly and will decrease in value if not removed this summer. The downed timber will also increase the danger of a fire event in the watershed if not removed.

The trees will be removed to a point beneath the ridgelines to minimize a similar occurrence in future winters. The timber will be removed using Campbell Group road systems, which will minimize any impact on water quality. It is anticipated that approximately 450,000 board feet will be removed. The net value to the city after reforestation costs will be approximately \$120,000.00. It is recommended that Council approve the solicitation of bids for Upper Ridge Slowdown removal.

Councilor LaMear asked if the Campbell Group was responsible for the blowdown, as it occurred adjacent to their harvest. City Attorney Henningsgaard stated blowdowns are a common occurrence and no responsibility is placed on Campbell Group.

Rachel Whistler, 518 39<sup>th</sup> Street, said she uses the area for recreational purposes and asked if a partnership could be developed during the bidding process so that the trails would be emphasized by the companies doing work in the area or that the roads be left in a condition to be used for recreational purposes. She clarified she was referring to the trails up to the Astoria Watershed, as far as they extend, and asked that the area be left in a condition that would allow for access by foot; she was not proposing horse trails or other uses prohibited in the watershed. She confirmed she was not talking about the forests surrounding the water reservoirs. There has been discussion about extending the trails and she wanted them to go as far as possible. City Manager Benoit believed the Astoria Watershed is closed to recreation and public access. Ms. Whistler replied she was referring to the access roads up to the watershed and areas with machinery, that they be left in a respectable condition.

City Manager Benoit stated a portion of the funds is retained specifically for road improvements. Public Works Director Cook confirmed that this was correct. He explained the timber will be removed from the site on roads controlled by Campbell Group. As a condition of every sale, the roads must be left in better shape than before the sale.

Mayor Van Dusen recalled the removal of the railroad trestle, which could have been turned into a trail that connected with Warrenton. He appreciated Ms. Whistler's comments.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Herzig to approve the solicitation of bids for Upper Ridge Slowdown removal. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

**Item 8(c): Trolley Trestle Repair Project (Public Works)**

The City of Astoria has approximately 4.7 miles of rail line traversing the south shore of the Columbia River from the Port of Astoria to Tongue Point. The line currently in use by the Astoria Trolley, is a portion of rail line that was once owned and maintained by the Burlington Northern railroad and includes 8 timber trestles that support the historic railroad grade and sections of the river walk trail.

Due to the age of the timber trestles, maintenance requirements have been increasing each year. The Trolley trestles are inspected annually and repaired as necessary to maintain the safe operation of the Trolley. The inspection/repair schedule is based around the operation of the Trolley.

Last year, City staff utilized the informal Request for Quotes (RFQ) process and received two quotes for repair work identified in the annual inspection. The lowest quote was 18,500.00. Due to funding issues, a contract was not executed at that time. After this year's inspection, additional work was identified and a supplemental quote was obtained from Tidewater Construction in the amount of \$11,100.00 for additional pile repair work resulting from storm damage this past storm season. The current proposed contract amount will therefore be \$29,600.00.

It is recommended that City Council authorize award of a construction contract to Tidewater Construction in the amount of \$29,600.00 for the Trolley Trestle Repair Project. Funding for this project will come from the Promote Astoria Fund.

City Manager Benoit explained the difference between quotes and bids, noting that projects in excess of \$100,000 require engineered drawings, advertising and solicitation of sealed bids. The City is allowed to call contractors directly to obtain informal quotes for projects under \$100,000.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Warr to authorize award of a construction contract to Tidewater Construction in the amount of \$29,600.00 for the Trolley Trestle Repair Project. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

Mayor Van Dusen commented that while this project is important, there are more community uses than just the trolley, such as the Riverwalk.

### **NEW BUSINESS & MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC COMMENTS**

City Manager Benoit announced that the Parks and Recreation Director position has been offered Angela Cosby, who she has accepted the position. The City originally received 132 applications, which was narrowed down to 60, and then down to six. The six applicants were invited to Astoria for interviews conducted by a citizen committee of seven members. These applicants were also interviewed by City department heads. A community meet and greet was held at Fort George, where Parks Department Staff met with the six applicants. This process allowed the City to select two final candidates, one of which was Captain Len Tumbarello, who is retiring from the Coast Guard. Ms. Cosby is from Spokane, Washington. She earned her degree in parks and recreation at the University of Washington and her Master's degree in organizational leadership at Gonzaga University. Her focused career is in parks and recreation. Both of the final two candidates offered unique qualifications to the position. The choice was difficult to make. City Manager Benoit believes Ms. Cosby will be the best fit for the community. Ms. Cosby anticipates being on the job in the third week of April 2013, after giving her current employer a three week notice and relocating to Astoria.

Mayor Van Dusen stated that Columbia Memorial Hospital and Clatsop Community College are interested in a health and wellness center and have asked the City to consider a three-way partnership to do a feasibility study. This study would cost \$12,000. The college and hospital would each pay \$5,000 and the City would pay \$2,000 towards the cost of this study. The health and wellness center would be part of the Aquatic Center. Staffing of the facility could be shared by all three groups. He noted this is within the City Manager's funding limit and asked Council if they would be interested in this partnership.

Councilor LaMear stated that she is amazed by the types of collaborations in the community. This is a great idea to consider and she would like to see the feasibility of this project.

Councilor Herzig confirmed the health and wellness center would be a public facility, adding he believes this was worth researching.

Councilor Mellin expressed concern with space at the Aquatic Center. Mayor Van Dusen stated this has not been discussed with any engineer or architect. He is simply relaying information. The Aquatic Center could be expanded and spaces such as the locker rooms and restrooms could be utilized by all groups.

Councilor Warr believed this was a terrific idea, but is also concerned with having adequate space. Two thousand dollars is a good value for the City.

**City Council Action:** Motion made by Councilor LaMear, seconded by Councilor Herzig to authorize participation in a partnership with a \$2,000 contribution towards a feasibility study of a health and wellness center. Motion carried unanimously. Ayes: Councilors LaMear, Warr, Herzig, Mellin and Mayor Van Dusen; Nays: None.

Rae Goforth, 612 Florence Ave., thanked City Council for their cooperation on the development of the Maritime Memorial Park. She also thanked Director Estes, Mike Morgan and Phil Elkins for their work on the park. Terra

and Pam, in the Parks and Recreation Department, contributed greatly to the project. Ms. Goforth thanked Councilor Warr for offering the benches at a good price. She believes the park is something that Astoria can be proud of. The annual Memorial Day service will be held at the park at 3:00 p.m.

Dick Magathan, 35079 Reith-Larson Lane, recalled that in October 2012, City Manager Benoit had been directed by Mayor Van Dusen to report on improvements in park maintenance and give an update on the relationship between the parks department and the Friends of the Astoria Column. Mr. Magathan believed the report and update never occurred. He recalled that there was a disagreement between then Interim Parks Director Moss and the Friends of the Astoria Column as to who was responsible for maintaining the Column. He believed Mr. Moss wanted the Friends removed from the Column to assign the Parks Department to run the concession stand and collect parking fees.

Mayor Van Dusen stated that the Friends of the Astoria Column plan to attend the next City Council meeting to discuss this issue and make a presentation. While his recollection of this topic was different from Mr. Magathan's, there was a disagreement about the assignment of tasks at the Column. However, conversations between Mr. Moss and Jordan Schnitzer were businesslike. This issue will be discussed at the City Council meeting on April 1, 2013. Nothing has been resolved yet because he and the City Council have not yet heard the presentation from the Friends. He has only received updates. The City hesitated to make any decisions without a Parks Director. Now that a Parks Director has been hired, City Council will hear the presentation by the Friends of the Astoria Column at the next meeting.

Mr. Magathan added that he is often asked for updates about the parks department now that Mr. Moss is no longer the Interim Parks Director. He has been telling people that Mr. Moss still holds this position. People have been shocked to hear this, as they believed Mr. Moss's position expired at the end of December 2012.

Jim Krettler, 1660 SE 1<sup>st</sup>, stated he is pleased that a Parks Director has been hired and asked when she will have full authority. He asked if Mr. Moss and Ms. Cosby will work together as Ms. Cosby learns the details of her new position. City Manager Benoit explained that Ms. Cosby will begin the third week of April 2013 and that Mr. Moss will work with her for two weeks.

Mr. Krettler asked if repair work on the trolley trestle will disrupt trolley service. Director Cook stated that while work may be conducted in conjunction with trolley service, it should not disrupt trolley service.

Mr. Krettler added that he would like to be involved in the health and wellness center project.

Karen Kenyon, 864 Grand Ave, passed out information on the Women Interested in Going to School (WINGS) conference, which was hosted by Clatsop Community College and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on March 3, 2013. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the conference, which is the only one of its kind in Oregon. The purpose of the conference is to get women back into school. Women who do not know how to get back into school or who do not have the confidence to do so are the target audience. Many of these women are homeless, live in shelters or work low paying jobs. The conference's mission is to educate and encourage these women. Free child care is provided by Port of Play. Free lunch, snacks and door prizes are also provided.

- She has been overwhelmed by the community's support of this conference. Businesses in the downtown area donated gift certificates and gifts when they were unable to donate cash. The women who attend the conference receive a voucher for a 3-hour class at the college. This is not advertised. The support is important to the women. Ten out of the last 11 years, Betsy Johnson has given a speech at the conference. The women are always excited to hear her speak, as she is inspiring and encouraging.
- This year, Jeff Merkley sent a video that stated the average high school graduate earns \$23,000 per year, while the average college graduate earns \$55,000 per year. Tuition for a three-hour class at Clatsop Community College is \$312. Books often cost more than \$100 each. These costs are impossible for women without resources.
- The information she distributed listed the donors in the community, stated facts about the 2012 conference and included a letter of solicitation.

Mayor Van Dusen noted that Edith Henningsgaard is involved with this conference, which was very successful this year. Ms. Kenyon added that feedback from the women who attend make all of their hard work worth the effort. She read feedback left by four of the women who attended the conference.

Carol Cramer, 395 Atlantic, stated that over the last two weeks she has seen four young adults with four dogs in two shopping carts around town. They were involved in a confrontation on Saturday, March 16, 2013 on Old Youngs Bay Bridge and assumes they had been asked to leave Astoria. She saw one of the young adults back in town earlier that day. The four young adults told her that it is easy to be transient in Astoria because help is available. She suggested that City Council speak with the police department about the issue.

- The transient population in Astoria is growing, which is a problem that should be addressed. She believes more transients will move into Astoria in the spring. This is not how the community should be represented and does not know why this has become a problem. The transient people shop frequently at a business on Marine Drive, which could be dangerous for the employees. Police, fire trucks and ambulances are frequently called to this business.
- She asked Council to consider this issue. If restrooms are added at Lindstrom Park, the transient people could move to the park where children play. The police are currently working to keep this group off of school property.

Venus Fromwiller, 239 Kensington Ave., announced that the Astoria School District, Public Health Department and Coastal Family Health Center have partnered to explore the possibility of a school based health center at either the middle school or high school. The center would provide opportunities for improved health care and education outcomes for children. Better health care results in better learners. Clatsop Behavior Health and the juvenile department are also involved in the project.

- Two community meetings have been held; however, attendance was poor. One more community meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Astoria High School in the auditorium. Electronic surveys are being conducted by the school district to ensure this project is supported by parents and students. She made handouts available on the table.
- School based health centers have been in Oregon for 25 years; however, many people have not heard of them. Some citizens are concerned about city or county funding and taxes. Funding depends on the model used, and some counties do provide funding. State grants are available specifically for school based health centers. No money from the city or county will be needed.
- She wanted to raise awareness of the project and noted the school district will make a decision in May 2013 as to whether they would like to apply for a grant or not. She wanted to make sure people have the opportunity to voice their opinions about the project, which needs support from the community.

Mayor Van Dusen asked if the health center would serve kindergarten through grade 12 or include the community college. Ms. Fromwiller explained the current model proposes placing the health center at the high school and will serve all students in the school district. The middle school is another possible location.

- The school based health center will provide mental health care, which is difficult to access in the community. Parents will not have to take off of work. The health center will serve many people who are not currently receiving health care. Improved health can help students do better in the classroom.

Councilor Herzig stated that he invited Ms. Fromwiller to this meeting because he will not be able to attend the community meeting on March 21, 2013. With the high school and middle school in Ward 2, he takes a very personal interest in this project. He encouraged public input at the community meeting. Preventive medicine is a good investment.

Rachel Whistler, 518 39<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke in support of the school based health center. City Council is a critical part of the community and needs to be aware of the grant, which is being directed by a steering committee of many key community members. She read part of an article published in the February 28, 2013 edition of the *Daily Astorian* after one of the community meetings, which discussed the benefits of a school based health center. The health center would serve as an opportunity for the community to work together to care for its youth. She encouraged increased awareness of this project. Just as workplace clinics encourage preventative health care, this center will provide the same opportunity to Astoria's youth while also promoting wellness.

- Compliance with immunization requirements demands an incredible amount of funds, manpower and the involvement of teacher and parents. Children who are not in compliance with immunization requirements by a specific date are not allowed to attend school. Schools begin calling parents prior to the exclusion date; however, many students are not immunized properly by that date. These students are no longer eligible to attend school. This health center would immediately reduce absenteeism.
- Youth depend on parents and guardians to obtain health care. A school based health center may be forward thinking for some people and should be considered a key part of the community's concern for children.



Children in the educational system should be physically and mentally sound, and there is no better place to ensure this than in the schools. This is an opportunity to be proactive and should be the community's priority.


**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. to convene the Astoria Development Commission meeting.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Finance Director

  
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City Manager