

Springfield City Club – A New Year

Best Wishes for a happy healthy and prosperous 2016.

The Springfield City Club will celebrate its fifth birthday later this year. Like many new organizations, it has experienced spurs of growth and occasional struggles along the way. We begin the year with slightly more than fifty dues paying members and a mailing list of interested people that approaches 200. The challenge for this year will be to persuade those on the interested list to become members. We hope for growth to double our size in 2016.

To succeed, we need your help.

For those of you who are members, we need your renewed commitment to City Club. While most members are employed and have broad community involvement which sometimes interferes with their ability to attend programs, we urge every member to make a new commitment this year to attend at least one meeting a month. Each of you already has a strong commitment to the Springfield community, and a resolve to see it prosper; both residents and businesses should thrive. One way to achieve that objective is by broader participation in City Club, where the issues facing the community are discussed and debated twice a month. Everyone can be better informed; none of us is able to keep on top of every issue. We members can all also spread the word about the value of City Club to the community. If every member were to bring only one new member to City Club, we would easily meet our goal.

For those of you who are not yet members: why wait? You have seen how far reaching our programs have been; you undoubtedly have more ideas on discussions that will provide benefit to the community by spreading knowledge, not rumor and misinformation. Bring your ideas and help us keep the community better informed. Springfield is facing a bright future. The new Swanson mill is under construction, the Shoppes at Gateway continue to grow and offer more opportunities to shop for the region, not just Springfield, Glenwood continues to move toward rapid growth, in the Southeast a network of trails, park and open spaces is becoming a reality. Become part of all that and more – join City Club today.

MEETING CALENDAR

January 7, 2016

The 2016 Legislative Session

The 2016 session of the Legislative Assembly will open on February 1, 2016. Because this is a “short session” the Legislature must adjourn on or before March 6. This limits the issue that can be dealt with. Probably topics are a revisit of marijuana laws and a discussion on the State’s minimum wage. Senator Lee Beyer and Rep. John Lively will update City Club members on the likely course of the session.

January 21, 2016

The State of Springfield

Mayor Christine Lundberg will review the accomplishments of City government during 2105 and outline her priorities for the coming year.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

Springfield City Council

January 11, 2016

State of the City

January 19, 2016

Work Session (6:00 p.m.)

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Franklin Boulevard Update

January 25, 2016

Work Session (5:30 p.m.)

Street System condition update

Lane County Commissioners

January 4, 2016 11:00 a.m.

State of the County

January 5, 2016 – 9:00 am

Public Hearing: OSU Extension Levy

January 12, 2016 – 10:00 am

Public Hearing: Fern Ridge Community Policing District

January 19, 2016 – no meeting

January 26, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.

Marijuana Task force Update

(Continued on page 2)

Lane Transit District
January 20, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District
January 13, 2016

School District 19
January 12, 2016– 7:00 PM

DECEMBER MEETINGS

DECEMBER 3, 2015

WHITHER THE MINIMUM WAGE

City Club members participated in a lively discussion of what, if anything, should be done to the current State minimum wage.

Proponents of an increase asserted that the current minimum wage has been used as a tool of large corporate businesses to hold down costs. They assert that over 85 percent of all minimum wage jobs are those in large retailers, and that less than 15 percent are employees of small businesses. On this basis, they say that an increase in the minimum wage will not have an adverse effect on the Oregon economy, but in fact benefit the economy by enabling more people to have an acceptable standard of living. They claim that even a wage of \$10.50 per hour is inadequate and point to reports which assert that an hourly wage of \$20.91 is required to provide an adequate standard of living for a family of four.

Conversely, a panelist employed in small business says he is able to provide a basic standard of living on only \$8.62 an hour (the major difference being that in his case there is no cost of child care because he and his spouse arrange work schedules appropriately and spend much less on food, health care, transportation and savings).

Proponents of an increase report that the increased cost of a higher minimum wage could be almost completely

offset by reductions in federal and state spending on “safety net” social welfare programs. They assert that of \$175 billion annually is spent on these programs and that much of that could be reduced by and increase in the minimum wage, with some portion of those savings used to subsidize those businesses, generally small businesses, that would see a real increase in costs.

The small business representative responded that many of his minimum wage jobs are filled by students for whom the wage is not the sole source of their support and that increasing the minimum wage would drive up his costs without providing any societal benefit.

DECEMBER 17, 2015

KRISTI KRUEGER, SPRINGFIELD PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

Kristi Krueger, Principal Engineer for the City of Springfield, held the interest of a room full of City Club members on Thursday Dec. 17, discussing significant changes about to take place on Franklin Blvd in Glenwood. The Eastern end of Franklin Blvd, just before entering Springfield is about to undergo a major change. Three roundabouts are slated to start construction late next summer. These roundabouts are intended to simultaneously improve traffic flow while also improving safety for drivers, transit riders, pedestrians, and bike riders.

Glenwood has long been thought of as a place of great potential. The Franklin Blvd project is designed as an early starting point for the Glenwood refinement plan. The intent is to create a more vital and vibrant Glenwood and to more fully utilize and make available the beauty of the River. It is clear that this project will have a catalytic effect on land redevelopment.

Design work on the project is slated to finish next summer with construction starting shortly afterward. For more information about the project please consult the web site: <http://newfranklinblvd.org/>

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Springfield City Club
Board of Directors Meeting November 3, 2015

Board Members Present: Mike Eyster, Len Goodwin, Jeff Thompson, Chris Kline, John Tamulonis, Kay Hyde-Patton, Merlyn Hough, Terry Beyer, Steve Moe, and Michelle Bixler

Board Members Absent: N/A

Others Present: Dacoda Hulse from The Washburne Café.

1. 11:40 Meeting was called to order by Mike Eyster
2. Minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting were not sent out and thus not approved. Dacoda Hulse will resolve this issue.
3. Mike Eyster noted that the website is working well. Len Goodwin mentioned that Denise Mulder has concerns about using Eventbrite because the fee charged by the service results in the cost of pre-registered lunches hardly being covered. It was discussed that this loss is made up by the cost of lunches that are paid for at the door. Mike Eyster suggested that Eventbrite continue to be used and to see how it goes.
4. Board Reports
 - e. Financial: John Tamulonis reviewed a sheet with information on the City Club's profits, losses, and total assets. Money is being lost overall due to low attendance at meetings and the cost of lunches to the Club. Membership dues have tapered off since June and expenses from August through October have eaten up the reserve created by earlier membership dues. It was stated that it is ideal to find ways to increase membership and program attendance rather than raise the cost of lunches for attendees. Len Goodwin asked whether Denise Mulder is taking merchant fees into account, double-counting, or otherwise understating revenue. John Tamulonis did note that October was overall financially positive. Talking about the low program turnout in September, Chris Kline mentioned that it is a busy month; Mike Eyster also pointed out that the topic was not interesting. John Tamulonis will check with Denise Mulder about the merchant fees.
 - f. Programs: Terry Beyer mentioned Skip Sangren and county performance auditor Shanda Miller as being the speakers for November's programs. December's programs are not yet scheduled, but January's are already. The goal is to try to get some federal congressional people as speakers for December 17, 2015. Merlyn Hough suggested AmTrak as another option, Len Goodwin suggested the McKenzie-Willamette expansion. Len Goodwin also brought up the minimum wage act as a program topic. Mike Eyster suggested a break from the traditional program format for this topic, suggesting either a longer program and perhaps in the evening. Michelle Bixler thought scheduling at the regular time would be better. Kay Hyde-Patton brought up keeping it at the regular time but doing a longer program. John Tamulonis suggested having two separate sessions, one with supporting speakers and the other with opposing speakers; Kay Hyde-Patton thought a more back-to-back format would be best. Merlyn Hough suggested an optional discussion time at the end. Terry Beyer said 20 minutes to present should be allocated to each side with a chance for feedback at the end, with Mike Eyster and Len Goodwin in agreement.
 - g. Public Relations: Jeff Thompson reports that the word is already out on Skip Sangren and that he is getting calls about this program already. Terry Beyer will be sending a biography and picture for Shanda Miller to Jeff Thompson and Len Goodwin. Jeff Thompson is also working on getting the Springfield Times to regularly attend programs and utilizing Facebook to promote programs.
 - h. Membership: Len Goodwin brought up that it is time to send out invoices for next year and that Bean Counter will take care of the entire process for \$60. Mike Eyster moved to accept using Bean Counter to handle the invoices, John Tamulonis 2nd. The motion was passed. Kay Hyde-Patton suggested placing an ad in the paper to boost membership and Jeff Thompson agreed to look into it. Chris Kline suggested inviting people to programs as guests and seeing if they would like to join. Len Goodwin said that the website had a currently disabled feature that could be enabled to allow people to purchase memberships online, however with a 4% fee to City Club. Chris Kline said that the feature should be enabled because of its convenience, Terry Beyer agreed. Len Goodwin said he would enable the feature.
9. Other Business
 - j. Newsletter: John Tamulonis will write the article for the December newsletter. Kay Hyde-Patton will write the article for the January newsletter.
 - k. Audio: Michelle Bixler will be checking with KLCC regarding their audio standards. John Tamulonis will then ask if Willamalane would be willing to upgrade their system.
 - l. Small Business Saturday: Jeff Thompson mentioned a November 28th event, Small Business Saturday, that the Chamber of Commerce is participating in to support shopping at local businesses.
 - m. Chamber of Commerce at City Club: Len Goodwin mentioned the possibility of promoting the Chamber at City Club. John Tamulonis brought up that City Club is against having propaganda within the room, but that they can be promoted outside of the room. Michelle Bixler asked if the Chamber could sponsor City Club. John Tamulonis said they could, but still no signage in the room during programs.
 - n. Business Cards: Mike Eyster asked Jeff Thompson about business cards; Jeff Thompson says he will send out a PDF of them this week.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25