



Board of Commissioners' Work Session Meeting March 1, 2023 ~ 3:00 pm ~ Room 214

3/1/2023 - Minutes

1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To www.klamathcounty.org

2. Call To Order & Those Present

Commissioner DeGroot, Commissioner Minty, Commissioner Henslee, Sandy Cox/Admin Staff

3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting

Commissioner DeGroot approves minutes from last Work Session Meeting.

4. Steen Sports Park Grant Funding Request

Commissioner Minty recuses herself and leaves room. Scott White/Steen Sports Park addresses the Board, would like to have money that was previously awarded through ARPA redirected for 1 bathroom and Admin/operation fees to get them back on their feet, then hold 55k back as matching for another grant for future turf project. Parker indicates ARPA funding can not be used for any matching grant funds. Commissioner Henslee indicates that he is a huge fan of Steen's Sports Park, but previously asked for a business plan/model before they came back and asked for any operating funds from the County, we can not keep floating operating funding to the park. Commissioner Henslee indicates that we need to take a serious look at Steen's on a long term basis. Mike Reeder states some of their ideas for improving the park have not been able to come to fruition. Commissioner Henslee understands that but can not keep giving them operational funding. White further explains the park has been plagued with smoke and drought and there is no incentive for public to come to the park. Commissioner Henslee states he just proved his point, if not one is coming then what is 200k more in funding going to do? Reeder further gives more ideas for potential projects to generate public interest/revenue and tournaments planned for next summer. Commissioner Henslee indicates that the County has an obligation to make sure that the ARPA funding is being used appropriately and in a timely manner so if we need to reallocate that funding before we are in a position to have to refund the Fed Government. Noel indicates this funding is part of a different ARPA pot and we would need to get permission before we reallocate it. Commissioner Henslee is nervous about the future of the park and at what point do we fold the hand. Commissioner DeGroot indicates the park will not close, the County may have to step up and run it as a County Park. Reeder further elaborates that they are beginning the 1 bathroom project now so that "baseball" is ready to go, they just need additional funding for operations and matching to apply for

other grant funding to get things back on track. Commissioner Henslee asks if the Commissioners tell them no today then what? White responds then the park will be the County's next month. Henslee asks if the City has helped? White responds no. Commissioner Henslee asks if this funding can be used for operations? Parker responds that DAS would have to approve a modified request and they are stating any requests would have to be reallocated for a like project. White indicates that 200k would be used for field maintenance and the staff/materials needed to do that. Parker responds that ARPA does allow for that use, but would need to be approved by the BOCC and DAS. Commissioner DeGroot wants to give Steen the best opportunity to be successful and still protecting the citizens money, is nervous about the County getting the park back with a little piece of property owned by a private entity in the middle of it, wonders if we should fund 400k for both of the bathrooms and buy that house so that if/when the County gets the park there isn't a mess to clean up. Commissioner Henslee ask if there has been a conversation with little league about using the fields at Steen's, then maybe combine the money Little League got to improve the fields at Steen's. Reeder responds that Little League has indicated they would use Steen's fields. Commissioner DeGroot proposes using the 655k previously allocated by using 400k for the bathrooms and the remaining 255k to purchase the house that is located on the property, then Steen's will continue to use and maintain the house as they see fit. Discussion about the acreage the house sits on and that Steen's would keep the rental income from the house, and amend an agreement to outline these details. Commissioner Henslee would be concerned about maintenance of the house, Commissioner DeGroot indicates that the agreement would state Steen's would be responsible for all of that. Reeder/White will run this information by their Board to seek approval as well as DAS approval. Commissioner Henslee cautions White that we can't keep going down this road as well as having a conversation with their Board about the "What If".

5. Randy Cox, KCEDA - HRSA Community Project Funding

Randy Cox addresses the Board indicating they have applied for Congressional Directed Funding on behalf of Transitions in the amount of 3.5 million to build a Substance Abuse Recovery Program, would like to move the grant to Klamath County if KCEDA can not. Commissioner Minty asks why KCEDA got involved in the first place. Cox indicates that Senator Wyden and Merkley's staff contacted them and encouraged they apply for as much of this money as they can. Commissioner Minty suggests KBBH be the applicant if KCEDA can be the applicant? Commissioner DeGroot asks if Transformations Wellness can apply? Cox responds they are not comfortable. Parker asks if the initial ask is in KCEDA's name or Transformations Wellness name? Parker reminds the Board that Transformations Wellness should be able to apply by themselves with some help from us if they need help. Commissioner Minty and Henslee both voice that they should be able to apply by themselves and we can provide help if needed. Commissioner DeGroot indicates they should try and apply in their name, but keep us apprised and ask for help if needed, if we have to step in there will be a cost associated with it. They will be back in touch with the BOCC by the 15th with a decision from their Board.

6. BOCC



1. Letter Of Support For Senate Bill 5514

Commissioner Henslee indicates that this is a draft letter still in the works.

Commissioner Minty motions to sign a the letter once completed in support of SB5514, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

7. Adjournment

3:45pm

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

305 Main Street 2nd Floor, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

E-mail: bocc@klamathcounty.org Website: www.klamathcounty.org