



Board of Commissioners' Work Session Meeting
April 16, 2020 ~ 2:00pm ~ Room 214

4/16/2020 - 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 Boyd, Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot; Haley Huffman / Admin Staff; Vickie Noel, Kirby Garlitz / Finance; Kate Marquez, Jim Chadderdon (via phone) / Tourism Grant Review Panel; Derrick Rowley (via phone) / Fairgrounds.

3. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting

Approved.

4. Tourism Grant Review Panel Recommendations

Kirby Garlitz presents the Tourism Grant Review Panel's recommendations for this grant cycle. The Board discusses the effects of COVID-19 closures on the projects. Commissioner Morris suggests having a caveat such as, if COVID cancels your event, you'd need to return the money. Commissioner DeGroot said he was good with that. Commissioner Boyd said, what if they started advertising it already. Commissioner DeGroot said, whatever is unspent then. Kate Marquez said, isn't it a reimbursement grant. Mr. Garlitz said, yes it is a reimbursement grant where they need to submit receipts for reimbursement payment from the grant. Commissioner Morris motions to approve the recommendations of the grant committee with added language on COVID-19 cancellation as discussed. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

5. BOCC

1. Klamath Basin Shoulder Season Follow-Up

Commissioner Morris said the Board has discussed using tourism grant dollars to help with other needs related to COVID closures. Ms. Marquez said she feels the off season grant program still makes sense but the all-day marketing 101 class should be a smaller Zoom version. She said she doesn't see a reason to not do it, the need is still there. She said, if there are other needs that take priority then, maybe so. Jim Chadderdon said, three weeks ago he started thinking about the impacts of low/non existent occupancy and how anyone receiving those tax dollars are going to get impacted by the lodging tax shortfall. He said, should we table the shoulder season and hold back those dollars for a little while? Derrick Rowley said they have estimated their losses through June. They've gone through their budget and cut quite a bit. They are hoping for things to open back up so

they can operate at some capacity throughout the year. He said, there is still no word on any type of funding they can apply for since they are in the government category. Commissioner Boyd asks, Jim are you thinking the money in the Tourism Grant Committee could help fund Discover Klamath, the Museum and the Fairgrounds. Mr. Chadderdon said, I don't want to be self serving but, yes. Commissioner Boyd said, we don't know the legality of that, we have asked County Counsel to look in to that. Commissioner DeGroot said, we would have to open it up for those entities to apply for a grant so instead of having a shoulder season, you'd have a grant cycle for those three entities, a COVID recovery program. He said, there are two counties and one city who have opened up the TRT revenues for hotels to apply for as well. Commissioner Morris asks Ms. Marquez if the group would have heartburn over this. Ms. Marquez said, she thinks of it as more of a delay than a cancelling. She talked about the return on investment. She supports money coming out of the tourism grant program and going to Discover Klamath. Commissioner Morris said, the Board needs to flesh this out a little bit, is the board comfortable with taking this and digesting it? Commissioner DeGroot said, he would like the Board to take their time on this. The Board agreed by consensus to take time to think on this.

2. Klamath Soil And Water Conservation District Request For Support Letter

Commissioner Boyd motions to modify the letter to fit this year and send it off. Commissioner Morris seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

3. Hero Award Ideas

Commissioner Morris said we discussed this at the last Work Session. We got some great ideas and at this point time is of the essence.

Commissioner Boyd said, I think we are going to miss people and we are going to hurt feelings. Commissioner Boyd said, the City of Klamath Falls and the Wendt Family Foundation has each put in \$1000.00 to recognize the Health Department staff and healthcare workers with meals. Commissioner DeGroot said he agrees that we'll likely forget someone. He said, if we did have a small supply of something to handout to people when we notice something, it would only be when we're walking around and we could spend a couple seconds to recognize someone. He said, if we try to send something to everyone, we would miss people. Commissioner DeGroot said, our community steps up like no other. Commissioner Boyd said that's his point, that's the way we were all brought up, that's what we do.

Commissioner Morris motions to give \$1000.00 from the General Fund to the Wendt Family Foundation for recognition meals. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved. Commissioner DeGroot said he'd like to know costs on the coins or bracelets or whatever before discussing it further. Commissioner Boyd suggests passing something out all year long every year. Commissioner Morris said, how about if we spend up to \$1000.00 on that? Commissioner Boyd motions to spend up to \$1000.00 to make hero awards to pass out year around. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

6. Other County Business

Commissioner Boyd said he's been working with Paul & the medical staff at SkyLakes, they are putting a plan together to open up the county. They are starting to open up doing elective surgeries and some other things. They are concerned about the PPE still and to be frank, that has a whole lot to do with our Emergency Manager. Commissioner Boyd said he thinks it's time to start opening up the county. Commissioner DeGroot motions to sign on as a County to the Eastern Oregon Counties' letter. Commissioner Morris seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Commissioner Boyd said there is a county in Northern Oregon that is talking about furloughing their employees for 10 days between now and December. They can take it whenever. It's unpaid. He said, he worked with our Finance Director to get numbers and each day is approximately \$80,000. He said, we are way upside down in our General Fund budget and he's thinking about how to get a little money back in the bank. Commissioner Morris asks, what if we do it up to 15-20 days but make it optional? Commissioner Boyd said, he doesn't think that would work. Commissioner DeGroot said, it's an interesting option though and maybe we make it optional though June and then mandatory afterwards. Commissioner Boyd said, we literally ended up with about \$160,000 in the bank after doing the budget yesterday. Commissioner Morris said she like the idea of making it optional first. Commissioner DeGroot said, there are departments that will have a harder time saving money, such as the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner DeGroot said, he'd like to have some time to think on this. Board agreed to take time to think on this.

7. Adjournment

2:57pm

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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