**Ash Creek Water Control District Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6:30 PM, Independence City Hall**

Chair Mancil Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

**Roll call:**

* Present: Tom Wilson, Madeline Fisher, Mancil Russell, Andrea Melendy, Ed Matteo
* Absent: Emmanuel Goicochea
* Staff: Karin Johnson
* Others: Maya Cook, Molly Barbano

**Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2024:**

***Madeline Fisher moved to approve the minutes, Tom Wilson 2nd, motion passes unanimously.***

**Audience Comments:**

* Maya Cook and Molly Barbano presented a proposal from the Friends of Gentle Woods Park. The proposal included a budget and addresses restoration work for the banks of Ash Creek. Maya and Molly described their meetings with the Luckiamute Watershed Council and the City. Their next meeting is set for the last Saturday in June. Signage is proposed detailing the work of the volunteer group (Friends of Gentle Woods Park). The group is planning an event to draw interested volunteer participants and disseminate information. ACWCD will likely have a presence at the event.
* Mancil Russell said it was refreshing to see such interest in the work of ACWCD from non-board members. He also explained that ACWCD operates on state-mandated rules and regulations.
* ***Tom Wilson moved to support the proposal, which includes a budget of $1310, Ed Matteo 2nd, motion passed unanimously.***

**Director Comments**

* Outreach: Tom Wilson would like to establish a regular Outreach meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month, beginning at 11:30 AM, to be held at the Independence Public Library. He will confer with Emmanuel Goicochea about these meetings and make necessary reservations at the library.
* Phone: Mancil Russell reported that there have been more calls about nutria at Inspiration Gardens, and a call about significant junk under the trestle (waste and trees). This looks bad, ACWCD needs to do something.
* Precipitation: Madeline Fisher reported on precipitation amounts for May (3.09” in 2024, 0.36” in 2023, 4.46” in 2022, and 1.07” in 2021). There was some rain (and hail) on Father’s Day, but apparently only experienced in Independence.
* Birds: Madeline Fisher reported that 14-15 different bird species have been seen. She also noted that “rewilding” fields is encouraged. She has also tried to contact Brian Dutton about drone work relative to the coming 10-year plan update that is needed. She reported on an arboretum being planned for the WOU campus. She is on the tree advisory board for WOU.
* Deer: Ed Matteo said there are fewer deer being seen now, probably due to them establishing wider ranges. Twin fawns have been observed.
* Grants: Andrea Melendy sent another email to teachers regarding the upcoming grant processes. One request has been received, per Tom Wilson.

**Reports:**

Finance:

* Tom Wilson reported on checks written; a full financial report is attached to these minutes. Karin Johnson reminded the board that CSA Surety Coverage, per mandate in the budget hearing, is to be raised to $100,000. Tom Wilson will contact CSA and arrange for additional coverage.
* The LGIP balance on May 31 was $468,154.48 (increased by $2,278 due to incoming previously uncollected taxes). Pioneer Trust Bank balance as of 5-31 is $4,162.86.
* The checking account balance is $2,812.89 and a transfer of funds is needed. Past BOD practice has been to make transfers in increments of $5,000. Tom Wilson will take care of this transfer.
* The quarterly report from Ascension Accounting has been received; a copy of that report is attached to these minutes.
* Phone: Tom Wilson referenced phone calls discussed earlier.
* Nutria: Ed Matteo noted that ACWCD can provide traps, but they do not empty them nor dispose of the captured nutria. Master Gardeners handles that. Recent captures: 1 in Old Town, 2 south of town, 2 at Inspiration Gardens. There are currently 51 traps deployed, and another 18 service ready traps in Ed Matteo’s possession. Each trap is identified by an engraved district number. Ed Matteo will be invoicing the BOD for trap storage, check out and maintenance.
* Engineer’s Report: None at this time

**Unfinished Business:**

Karin Johnson needs to be paid for her work for March through June. She announced this would be her final meeting.

Board Vacancies and Appointments:

* ***Andrea Melendy moved to nominate Tom Wilson as Treasurer, Ed Matteo 2nd, motion passed unanimously.***
* There was no nomination for Vice-Chair at this time and the position will remain vacant for now.
* Andrea Melendy will continue to do grants.

**New Business:**

Presentation of Resolution #2024-01 for adoption of the 2024-2026 biennium budget: ***Andrea Melendy moved to approve the resolution, Ed Matteo 2nd, motion passed unanimously. Resolution #2024-01 is adopted.***

**Miscellaneous Business/Information:**

Correspondence:

* Tom Wilson noted receipt of a letter from the State of Oregon regarding Business Classification; ACWCD will report/verify that it has no employees
* SDAO membership update for and dues invoice for $237 was received. Tom Wilson will update the information and write the check for payment.
* SDAO will do a training about best practices/management training with a Q&A session. It can be done during a regular meeting in about an hour. This will also help prepare for the new 10-year plan due next year. Tom Wilson will invite SDAO to come to a future ACWCD meeting.

**Task Log: no report/information**

The BOD expressed its appreciation to Karin Johnson for 20 years of service.

***Tom Wilson moved to adjourn.***

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Mancil Russell at 7:20 PM

Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes

March 18, 11 AM Independence Library

Discussion regarding the need for different outreach strategies including monthly newsletters, a Facebook page and ways and collecting more email addresses.

Also discussed was a targeted door to door effort in some neighborhoods, coordinated outreach events with partners, talking to SDAO for ideas, and talking to other civic organizations (Rotary, Lions, Elks, etc).

No Votes, No decisions

**May 13, 12 PM Independence Library (video available on request)**

Continued discussion regarding outreach strategies. Attempted to define roles and responsibilities as well as whether there is a need for a regular scheduled committee meeting.

Bring to full board request for social media contact budget, Constant Contact.

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