

**Minutes for the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR 97214
Tuesday, December 20, 2011**

BOARD BRIEFINGS

Chair Jeff Cogen called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. with Commissioners Deborah Kafoury and Diane McKeel present, and Vice-Chair Loretta Smith and Commissioner Judy Shiprack excused.

Also attending was Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

B.1 Board Briefing on Community Reaps our Produce and Shares (CROPS) and Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) Briefing. Presenter: Kat West & Dan Bravin, Office of Sustainability & Weston Miller, OSU Extension Service & Other Invited Guests.

Ms. West provided the introduction and said the presenters would update the Board on the CROPS and BUFA programs. Mr. Bravin explained that the CROPS and BUFA programs are aligned with the County's mission to promote a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. They provide in-depth and comprehensive training in sustainable, small-scale, urban farming methods. These programs also align with the County's adopted sustainability principles and actions in the Multnomah Food Action Plan. The CROPS program just completed its third growing season and donated fresh, organic produce to Snowcap Charities food bank. In 2011, CROPS produced 7200 lbs of vegetables. BUFA just completed its first year, graduating seventeen new urban farmers who received hands-on, in-field and small business training.

Mr. Miller thanked the Board for their partnership and support. He thanked the students for participating in the BUFA program and presented them with their graduation certificates.

Mr. Bravin showed a video about the BUFA program. He spoke about future program goals and aspirations.

Commissioner Kafoury asked what they look for in BUFA applications and how much class enrollment costs. Mr. Bravin responded that the class costs approximately \$3000 for 550 hours of class for Track 1 and \$1080 for 120 hours in Track 2, over the course of eight months. There are six (6) work-trade scholarships available in Track 1. They are looking for people who are interested in taking the class and breaking into the field of sustainable small-scale, urban farming.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

B.2 Briefing on County Attorney Annual Report. Presenter: Jenny M. Morf, Acting County Attorney; Jacqueline Weber, Deputy County Attorney; Susan Dunaway, Assistant County Attorney.

Ms. Morf provided the introductions and said they review the County Attorney's Annual Report. She acknowledged and discussed the changes in staffing and leadership that occurred in the County Attorney's office during FY 2010-11. These changes provided them with an opportunity to assess the office structure and recruit highly qualified attorneys to join the team.

Ms. Weber explained that direct service hours represent time attorneys dedicate to litigation, legal consultation, legal document preparation and review, and client training. This excludes time spent on professional development, administrative, clerical or office related tasks. The attorney's reported a total of 18,733.68 hours billed, of which 16,527.05 were direct services hours.

Ms. Dunaway explained that the County Attorney litigation team defends against all claims brought against the County, its employees, and elected officials. Attorneys represent the County in all forms of litigation and in all venues. Litigation is consistently about 40% of their direct service hours. She stated that the litigation team is very successful in obtaining dismissals and favorable resolutions. The number of cases resolved exceeds the number of new lawsuits filed. She spoke further about the litigation process and discussed some general case outcomes.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

The minutes reflect the actions of the Board. For more detail, you are welcome to view the presentation material and/or video at:

http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

Submitted by:

Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County