

Citizens Advisory Committee
Departments of Community Services
Report/Recommendations
March 2013

Members: Terry Shlaes (chair), Donna Morris, Joe Daunt, Scott Kuyper, Debra Giannini

Staff: Jerry Elliott, Sammuel Konadu

Process:

Our committee met with these directors: Kim Peoples (Road Services), Mike Oswald (MCAS), Karen Schilling (DCS). The directors shared information about their programs/projects and gave our committee their budget recommendations. The CBAC also heard a presentation and completed an on-site visit to the Sellwood Bridge project. Ian Cannon, Sellwood Project Manager, took our committee on a tour of the project and provided us with information about the project. Jerry Elliott also made a presentation on the history of the bridge, the structural problems with the bridge, how feedback was collected from citizens and how the decision was made for the specific bridge type. The CBAC met to discuss the merit of each request and decided on our recommendations for this report.

Major Changes/Recommendations/Concerns:

1. The committee wants to recognize the work that the MCAS program has done to reduce the feral cat population and to increase the adoption program. Our committee also recommends continued efforts to locate the Animal Services facility closer to the center of the county. We feel that this would increase pet adoptions, increase visibility and make it easier to meet the needs of the shelter (food, adoptions and donations). It would also make it more convenient for the general public and the volunteers who help at the shelter. With an increase in funds and a reduction in animal population, public safety (dog bites/feral cats) will be preserved. We also commend Animal Services for working cooperatively with the many private rescue and adoption groups in the Portland Metro area and would encourage them to look for new opportunities.
2. Bridges, Roads and Transportation Planning have made requests for funds to continue on- going maintenance of roads and bridges. The committee feels that delaying maintenance on roads and bridges will cause increases in maintenance costs in the long run. We feel that other avenues of revenue should be investigated so that roads and

bridges can be fixed before it becomes a major endeavor. Our committee supports the funding of these services and recommends looking for other strategies to obtain funding to shorten the timelines of performing the deferred maintenance on the bridges and roads.

3. The request to increase Land Use Planning fees to bring in an additional \$50,000 per year is supported by our committee to help partially cover the \$1.3 million costs for land use planning.
4. The committee supports the one-time-only program offer to update the Sauvie Island Rural Area Plan (program offer 91025). This needed update will keep the plan up to date with the current land use planning policies.
5. Our committee would like to recognize the great job our elections office did during our last presidential election. Their performance was professional and encouraged many voters to come out to vote.
6. As for other budgetary requests for continuing programs, we support the continued funding for all programs. We appreciate the conservative requests they all have made in this time of budget shortfalls.

Emerging Issues

1. There was a recurring theme in all of our budget discussions that the community does not have a good understanding or awareness of DCS services. The CBAC would like to continue to work with DCS management to provide ideas to help in this communication. This will be a focus of the CBAC in the coming year.