

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne, Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, September 11, 2012**

BOARD BRIEFINGS

Chair Jeff Cogen called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. with Commissioners Deborah Kafoury, Judy Shiprack and Diane McKeel present, and Vice-Chair Loretta Smith excused.

Also attending was Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

B.1 Bed Bug Work Group Annual Briefing. Presenters: Ben Duncan, Multnomah County Environmental Health; Margaret Mahoney, Director, REACH Community Dev. & Bedbug Workgroup; & Rabia Yeaman, Bedbug Citizens Task Force.

Mr. Duncan gave the overview. He said the Bedbug Work Group was formed for a two-year period to provide a regional coordinated, work plan outlining a preventative response to the increase in bedbugs. He reviewed the considerations for the work plan and the measures of success. He covered the progress made in their first year and explained it focuses on structural improvements and practices, and identifying and developing strategies for moving forward. He reviewed the focus areas for 2012-2013 including increasing the availability of public information, training, better defining landlord/tenant roles, and addressing resource constraints. He concluded by saying that this year they will focus on identifying sources to fulfill funding needs and work to create systemic changes and structures that can address this problem.

Ms. Mahoney described the work that they are doing in their 1600 units of affordable housing they oversee and working with other apartment managers to be pro-active in this effort. Ms. Yeaman talked about her experiences as a tenant who had her condominium infested by bedbugs as a result of a neighbor, and the months of pesticide treatments, illness, stress, and work loss she suffered as a result.

The Commissioners asked questions and Mr. Duncan responded. The Board expressed their appreciation to the staff for their tremendous work and outstanding presentation.

B.2 Informational Board Briefing on the General Election. Presenter: Tim Scott, Director, Multnomah County Elections.

Mr. Scott gave the presentation. He discussed the deadlines for ballots and the influence of both the Presidential election and media attention that incent people to register to vote. He reviewed the numbers of voters that are registered and the employees required for his team to tally all ballots and the timing of those ballots cast. He discussed the ways they are preparing for the election and overcoming issues unique to the election, such as decreased staff at the US Postal Service, the drop site at the library, public perceptions of the ballot tally and the impacts of close races. They are using a higher speed sorter and have signature verification that is 60% faster than in the past. There is more space for voting in their front office, and they have added security and accountability.

Mr. Scott responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked him for his report.

B.3 Briefing on Findings from Multnomah County, Oregon Circuit Court Courtroom Requirements Analysis Report. Presenters: Chang-Ming Yeh, Principle Judicial Facility Planner, National Center for State Courts; Brett Taute, Facilities & Property Management; Doug Bray, District No. 4 State Court Administrator.

Mr. Taute made the introductions and gave the overview. He said this study updates an earlier space analysis done 12 years ago. The primary focus is to project the future court case filing levels by 2030 and examine the resulting impacts and needs on the County courthouse facility utilization.

Mr. Yeh reviewed the methodology used in gathering data including historic circuit court case filing data and US Census population estimates and projections to 2030 compiled by the State. He gave an overview of the statistical analysis of court judgeship staffing and court adjudication spaces both now and in the future. It is projected that case filing will increase by 16.39% between 2011 and 2030. He explained that by reengineering utilization in shared spaces, they will be able to use existing space differently and more efficiently.

Mr. Yeh said that issues that went into courthouse facility planning considerations are adjudication of space by clustering similar court assignments; configuring courtrooms dependent on use; shared, multi-purpose jury deliberation rooms; dynamic assignment of courtrooms; and shared, multi-purpose jury deliberation rooms. Judicial chamber space would be collegially shared and integrate judicial support staff resources. Public access space proposes improved juror comforts, enhanced public ways, self-help assistance in the lobby, and attorney/client/mediation conference space. Court operational space would place high use functions on lower floors, intensify modern records management, modernize and re-purpose the Law Library, and phase out some proceedings from the Downtown Courthouse.

Judge Waller talked about how the East County Courthouse has taken many of those steps including staff clustering, no individual restrooms, shared facilities, and secured areas for Judges and staff.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation and thanked staff for their tremendous work and for their innovative recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 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:
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Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County