

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners  
Multnomah County, Oregon  
Multnomah Building, Commissioners Conference Room 635  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, Oregon  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- E.1 The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will meet in Executive Session Executive Session Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2) e and h. Only representatives of the news media and designated staff are allowed to attend. Representatives of the news media and all other attendees are specifically directed not to disclose information that is the subject of the Executive Session. Final decisions are decided in public Board meetings. Presenter: John Thomas, Assistant County Attorney.

The meeting was postponed indefinitely. The Board Clerk confirmed that notice was posted in compliance with BCC-1.

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Multnomah Building, Board Room 100  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

**BOARD BRIEFINGS**

Chair Jeff Cogen convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Diane McKeel, Loretta Smith and Judy Shiprack present.

Also in attendance: Henry H. Lazenby, Jr., County Attorney, and Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

**B.1 Right Brain Initiative Briefing. Presenter: Eloise Damrosch, Exec. Dir., Reg Arts & Culture Council (RACC).**

Commissioner Shiprack introduced the presenters and made opening remarks. Ms. Damrosch thanked the Board for giving her this opportunity to present her program. She showed the video on Right Brain Initiative. She discussed how this program promotes whole brain learning. She emphasized the importance of arts in education and the impact this has on every aspect of education from reading to critical thinking, social skills and motivation. Their purpose is to achieve a measurable impact on learning by integrating the community's arts and cultural resources into the education of every K-8 student in the Portland metro region's school districts. They work closely with the schools and put together individualized programs based on the individual school's goals.

Ms. Damrosch discussed their funding sources, efforts to raise money and find grants. She talked about the evidence-based tools they use to measure success. They are presently in 25 schools, serving 10,500 students in 4 districts spread over 3 counties and hope to integrate their services in the remaining 215 area schools. She talked about the efforts to engage the entire community and the benefits this program can provide to students and the school system. She answered the Board's questions and invited them to schedule a school visit and see the program.

Commissioner Kafoury asked that they be given more information at a later date on what it looks like for Multnomah County in terms of dollars and how the Commissioners can help promote this program.

The Board thanked her for her presentation.

**B.2 Briefing on “Shelter Dreams” – The Animal Services Shelter Project.  
Presenters: Mike Oswald, Div. Dir., Animal Services & Cecilia Johnson,  
Director of Community Services (DCS).**

Mr. Oswald explained that today's Board briefing is a follow-up to a prior briefing held in November 2010. He said that Animal Services' (MCAS) mission is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of people and animals in the County. MCAS provides animal services for all County jurisdictions; manages the County's only public shelter for lost, injured, sick, abandoned, dangerous, and unwanted animals; provides public safety to County citizens; protects animals from abuse and neglect; enforces and promotes responsible pet ownership; reunites lost pets with their owners; and places animals into new forever homes. MCAS is challenged to sustain essential services with limited resources, inadequate facilities, and growing demands. The current shelter was built in 1968 and is a tier 3 County building. The state of the building impacts shelter operations with insufficient space to adequately care for animals, accommodate customers and maximize productivity.

Based on the recommendations made by the Animal Services Task Force in 2009, at the Board Briefing in November, MCAS recommended that the County build a new facility in Portland. The Board directed MCAS to explore this concept and report back with a preliminary feasibility plan. MCAS concluded that in order to focus fund development efforts on a permanent shelter, it had to redirect efforts and resources away from a partially-funded satellite adoption center and complete further analysis for building a permanent shelter in Portland.

Mr. Oswald listed the potential benefits of a permanent shelter located inside Portland city limits including: increased public awareness and visibility; better public access to services; increased revenue through higher numbers of licensed pets; helping more owners reunite with their pets; getting more pets adopted into their new forever homes; shortening the commute distance and thus, providing better response times for officers, and access to new community partners and volunteers; increased public and private support; and focus on more programs proven to be successful in reducing euthanasia, including a broader

base of foster homes. Commissioner Smith asked if animals are turned away. Mr. Oswald said that most animals are brought by public or picked up by officers in the field as injured or sick and animals are taken in regardless, for the sake of the welfare of the animal. To respond to the challenges brought on by the sheer volume of cats going through the system (5,000 last year), more work is being done to educate the public about inexpensive spay and neuter programs that exist.

He said their next steps will be to launch a formal feasibility study to identify their core demographics; community values and needs; funding model; test arguments for funding thresholds; measure awareness of the programs and services; gauge the level of community support; and calculate matching private funds. \$100,000 was budgeted for that purpose. He said they will return to the Board with results and strategies. Commissioner Shiprack queried the change in direction, since authorization had been given to approve a temporary downtown shelter. Ms. Johnson said the cost for a temporary shelter is \$300,000; the Board approved \$75,000 and instructed MCAS to raise a match in private funds. However, most private funds are given with restrictions to serve the animals versus operations. MCAS returned to the Board and said it wasn't sustainable as a long term strategy. However, there seems to be strong interest from the community in supporting a new facility through a private-funded capital campaign.

Commissioner Kafoury asked about the results of the fee increase approved by the Board in August. Mr. Oswald said it resulted in more active collection and enforcement. The online licensing is growing dramatically. Promotional work is being done to help people understand the benefits of licensing their pets and how it helps support operations. The number of licensed pets has doubled since 2007.

Mr. Oswald and Ms. Johnson responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

### **B.3 Informational Board Briefing on Elections Office New Technology. Presenter: Tim Scott, Elections Manager & Cecilia Johnson.**

Ms. Johnson provided the introduction. Mr. Scott explained that the State has about \$10 million of Federal grant money left from disbursements through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The State recently decided to use this money to help County elections offices improve the administration of elections. State Elections utilized a bid process to acquire seven mail sorters for the State's seven largest County elections offices. Bowe Bell + Howell was the successful bidder and is currently working to get the sorters delivered, installed, tested and ready for the May election.

Mr. Scott explained that the ballots are currently being sorted manually, which is labor intensive and factors in human error. He said that the sorter will increase the speed and accuracy with which Elections will be able to release results on election night. The other benefits include reduced training and staffing requirements; greater security of ballots during processing; and a direct feed to an observer viewing the room.

Mr. Scott stated that HAVA funds are being used for all upfront costs, such as the hardware, installation, training, etc. HAVA funds might also be used for the first year of the annual licensing and maintenance agreement. After that, that County will be responsible for covering licensing and maintenance costs. Annual maintenance starts at \$25,800 for the first year and by year six, will cost \$33,576. These costs will be offset by reductions in temporary staff wages. Additional costs incurred for building modifications necessary for installation of the machine will be covered by an existing budget surplus.

Mr. Scott and Ms. Johnson responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

**B.4 Informational Board Briefing on Sellwood Bridge Project. Presenters: Michael Baker, Owner's Representative & Cecilia Johnson.**

Mr. Baker said that the County and its consultant team are examining the "shoo-fly" construction option for the new Sellwood Bridge. He explained that this option could reduce the project's cost and construction time. It could also increase safety for bridge users and construction workers. The shoo-fly option involves moving the main spans of the existing bridge to create a detour bridge. This would create an open space where the contractor can build the new bridge in a single, shorter construction phase. He said the contractors have provided many examples of how this construction method has worked successfully for projects similar to this one.

He explained that to accomplish this option, there might be one additional property impact, which would require an assessment. This option would also require important City permits that must be fast-tracked. He said that his team is in discussions with appropriate City staff to establish this process.

Mr. Baker said the next major Board approval will be the 60% design in Fall, 2011. The acquisition of Right of Way properties is continuing to go well and they are working on acquiring construction permits. Ms. Johnson praised the dedication of the project staff and contractor.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

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