

City of Springfield  
Work Session Meeting

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF  
THE SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL HELD  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

The City of Springfield Council met in a work session in the Library Meeting Room, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield, Oregon, on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Leiken presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mayor Leiken and Councilors Lundberg, Leezer, Wylie, Ralston, Woodrow and Pishioneri. Also present were City Manager Gino Grimaldi, Assistant City Manager Jeff Towery, City Attorney Joe Leahy, City Attorney Matt Cox, City Recorder Amy Sowa and members of the staff.

Mayor Leiken noted that it was City Attorney Joe Leahy's birthday.

Council wished him a Happy Birthday.

1. President Frohnmayer.

Mayor Leiken acknowledged Greg Rickoff and Karen Hyatt from the University of Oregon. He thanked staff for extending the invitation to President Frohnmayer. He said he found Mr. Frohnmayer to be very accessible in the many years he had known him.

President Frohnmayer said he and his staff considered this an honor to come before the Mayor, Council and senior staff. He hoped this could be a dialogue between members of the Council and himself. He noted that the center of this city was as close to the UofO as the center of Eugene, and they regarded their identity as being part of the Eugene/Springfield area. He noted the size of the University of Oregon, a community within a set of communities. The University shared many of the same issues and responsibilities as the cities. The University educated about thirty percent of the Baccalaureate degrees in Oregon annually. The University was the largest in terms of full time employees in the State and had a presence regionally, nationally and internationally. More of the budget was received from the Federal Government and tuition than from the State of Oregon.

President Frohnmayer said the UofO was a member of the Association of American Universities, an association by invitation only. There were only 62 universities in this association in North America, and included Harvard, Yale, Stanford, MIT, and Cal Tech. Seven of the ten of the Pac-10 were included, but only 2 in the Pacific Northwest – the UofO and University of Washington. Being part of the AAU was a responsibility and aspiration for new knowledge. The UofO had two interconnected missions: undergraduate education and graduate/research. The UofO had their largest enrollment ever this year, and noted that the increase was from people going back to get their education during this recession.

President Frohnmayer explained the handout that was distributed to the Mayor and Council. Inside the folder was a three page document outlining current partnerships with Springfield. He explained some of those partnerships. Another fact sheet in the folder provided information

regarding degrees, enrollment, large funds generated, student enrollment, UofO employees and wages, organizational chart, and a Pathway Oregon Brochure.

President Frohnmayer referred to the brochure, "Powering the State's Economy 2009". He noted that each year the UofO contributed \$1.5B into the economy for the region. The majority of their money came from out of state, and the majority of their money was spent in state. They had an approximate twenty to one return on the state tax dollar. He referred to the flyer entitled "College of Education - Building Beyond Walls Report" and noted that the College of Education at the UofO was often nationally recognized and received more grant funding than Harvard or Stanford. He referred to the Oregon Quarterly which was also located in the folder.

Councilor Wylie said this was a lot of great information and thanked President Frohnmayer for bringing it for the Council.

President Frohnmayer said they tried to prepare these documents for busy, but sophisticated people. He referred to the three page document showing the connection between the UofO and Springfield and spoke regarding several of those partnerships. The University had at least three opportunities for continuing engagement. The first was that PeaceHealth, UofO, Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) and the City of Springfield had the potential to partner in the development of a regional medical center for medical education. The UofO had been working with OHSU on regionalizing medical education. Oregon would be running short of physicians in this area, and there was not enough capacity at OHSU. The UofO would be part of that along with Oregon State University (OSU). It was not quite a project, but was being discussed. The second was development of the Glenwood area. In any urban renewal effort, revitalizing the area was of interest to the UofO as neighbors and in terms of technical assistance. The third was the UofO's Research Park, which was at full capacity for the current building. He noted the close proximity from the Research Park to Glenwood, and there could be opportunities for expansion or continuation of research related efforts that might have some part in the City's overall planning. The UofO generated more from intellectual property than any other Oregon university institution, more than \$5M into the UofO's bottom line last year from the licensing of technology, spinoffs of corporations, etc. He explained that the university funds were spent in a decentralized way. There were many ways the university was engaged in the community. He discussed their contracting system. The university did business and liked to have local providers engaged.

Mayor Leiken thanked President Frohnmayer for bringing up those points. During his State of the City address, the Mayor had discussed the opportunity for health care clusters. He had met with leadership from both hospitals. He would like all parties to come together and talk about it more, including someone from the State. Springfield had a solid track record of coming up with ideas that came to fruition and he would like to see this become a reality. The Mayor said he was also pleased to hear President Frohnmayer's interest in Glenwood. Springfield had plans and engaging a partnership with the UofO could present a special opportunity throughout Glenwood. The fact the President brought this up was encouraging, and he was interested in continuing that conversation and taking it to the next steps in developing some opportunities and plans. Springfield was ready.

President Frohnmayer said their architectural and planning classes often drew up plans for certain areas as a project. They worked with leading architects. It was a way to work collaboratively with one of the finest architectural schools in the country. It could be a preliminary way to engage the University and its students and faculty.

Mayor Leiken agreed. He noted that the Apollo program was started by young engineers.

Councilor Lundberg said she had a great deal of personal interest in the UofO as she had two children there, and a third that had applied. She was interested how they promoted the medical education, as it could be a huge cornerstone of our economic development. She was very supportive of anything they could do regarding medication education. She discussed Glenwood and the transportation issues, and noted the potential to get a lot done collaboratively. Some UofO students did some type of planning exercise with Glenwood several years ago and were very creative. There were many areas in Springfield that could use that exercise. She was very proud to have the university here.

President Frohnmayer said Springfield's bet on healthcare was a wise one with the aging demographic. It was foresighted of Springfield to make it part of their strategy. He noted people in other areas, such as public policy, that could be of assistance. The UofO had an excellent department of human physiology, people that studied rehabilitation, human motion, fall prevention for the elderly, etc. The UofO from an academic standpoint could have ramifications in making life better in a practical way.

Councilor Woodrow said hearing the university's interest in Glenwood was encouraging and could provide a catalyst in Glenwood. He asked if the UofO had a program that partnered with graduates coming out of Lane Community College in the technical trades to take them to the next level.

President Frohnmayer said they didn't fill that gap very easily. He gave an example of how quickly LCC had been able to provide an educational turnaround for displaced workers. The UofO had more of the medical, sciences and technologies at the higher graduate levels.

Councilor Pishioneri said his daughter also attended the UofO. The prospect of looking into the Glenwood area or the core of Springfield for some type of auxiliary operations was great. He discussed security for the University and asked if there were plans for change in that area in the future. There seemed to be a high security concern on campus.

President Frohnmayer said the increase in the number of students at the Chase Gardens area had caused them to reconsider and reconfigure security. Lane Transit District (LTD) had assisted with bus patterns more frequently. They had always been concerned about campus security and had worked on campus lighting, installed alarm boxes at regular intervals, student drivers, buddy systems, education and self-education about safety issues. They had a formal contract with the Eugene Police Department. As a point of reference, the Oregon State Police provided policing services to OSU, but that didn't work for the UofO. The public safety officer, Kevin Williams, brought a high degree of sophistication to the policing business.

Councilor Pishioneri asked about certification levels for those working in the public safety sector.

President Frohnmayer said that issue had come up periodically, but there were significant expense issues associated with that as well as promotional opportunities for the people they had now. The issue was whether or not the promotional opportunities would be there. The legislature tried to solve that issue as 'one size fits all', but it didn't work for all organizations. He said there was a

white paper on public safety options for the University. He said his staff could provide a copy of that document to Councilor Pishioneri.

Councilor Pishioneri asked about outreach to the schools. His daughter had put out a survey to Thurston High School seniors regarding their interest in the School of Business at the UofO. He asked if enough energy was placed on mentoring students that were coming in to the university from all different areas, not just those with financial need. He asked about internships at the public schools.

President Frohnmayer referred to the handout in the folder. He explained some of the outreach to the public schools. Business literacy was very important for students bombarded with credit cards, cell phone contracts, and tuition. Most eighteen year olds had no exposure to financial management. Student leaders he met with had outlined a program they wanted to design for greater mentoring in that area. More education was needed in that area with the current economic situation.

Councilor Pishioneri said many students hadn't heard from the people out there what was available as far as the schools and universities.

Councilor Wylie said she and her husband had graduate degrees from the UofO, as well as a son and granddaughter attending. She discussed the difficulty in getting into the nursing program and asked if anything was being done about the nursing shortage.

President Frohnmayer said the best place to start was Lane Community College (LCC). They were currently trying to upgrade. The demand far exceeded capacity, but nursing instructors were difficult to find. In his experience, he had learned that skilled nursing care was the front line of defense in acute situations. He said it would be useful for the Council to have a conversation with Mary Spilde, President of LCC, who could explain the difficulties in maintaining the nursing program. The UofO did not have a four year degree for nursing. One of the benefits of working with the hospitals and OHSU could be a spinoff of the nursing component.

Councilor Leezer asked how the increased enrollment during the decline in the economy affected the university.

President Frohnmayer said they were not expecting enrollment to drop and so far the winter term enrollment had held. However, one year did not tell the whole story. Across the country, endowments had been slashed, and there were difficult times at other schools. He noted some of the steps other universities had taken. They expected to get their next revenue forecast by about February 23, at about the same time as the federal stimulus would be announced. The June forecast would most likely be down. There were a lot of unknowns at this time. They had not cut staff and this year, they had temporarily hired additional staff due to the increase in enrollment. It was a matter of timing and available resources.

Councilor Ralston said his daughter graduated as a pre-med student and had been working for OHSU for the past two years trying to get into the physicians program, which was very competitive. He was interested in knowing what opportunities the UofO might have partnering with RiverBend for those types of programs.

President Frohnmayer said the UofO was ready to do that with OHSU in Eugene and Corvallis, but were unable to proceed due to funding issues. The current budget made it even more difficult. If they could partner, they could nearly double enrollment opportunities. Whether or not they could proceed was dependent on appropriations from OHSU. All the mechanics for getting it done were understood, and the UofO was very excited. It would be a win all around, but they needed seed money.

Councilor Ralston said that was unfortunate because of the shortage of physicians in the near future.

Mayor Leiken asked if they could keep Springfield in the loop about that partnership, especially as it went through the State Ways and Means Committee. Representative Nancy Nathanson was the Vice Chair of that committee. Springfield would like to be included if there were ways Springfield could provide leverage.

Mr. Rickoff noted that UofO Day was scheduled for February 25.

Mayor Leiken asked about nanotechnology, and said it seemed like it was a great opportunity.

President Frohnmayer said it was a big area of concentration for the university in the sciences. He suggested the Council take a tour of the underground laboratory (Mr. Rickoff or Ms. Wyatt could get that scheduled). It was regarded as a high technology extension service. The university owned the equipment, and the facility was only used for collaboration. Much of the instrumentation had been donated to the university. He noted the value of that instrumentation. The lab was built into seismic bedrock so the conditions were nearly perfect. This lab included collaboration with OSU, Portland State University (PSU), and the Northwest National Laboratories in Washington, but was opened to collaboration with anyone in the world. This could be done distantly because the instruments could be controlled over the internet. This collaboration brought nearly 100 scientists to this laboratory. The university had dedicated space for the Integrated Sciences Building #2 adjacent to the laboratory, construction of which would begin in about a year. This facility would house nanoscience and neuroscience. It was a big investment in facilities, equaled by an investment in personnel and federal funding. He noted the connection between chemists and solar power.

Mayor Leiken said he had held conversations with local hospital administrators who were very excited about the potential for nanoscience in the medical field. He congratulated the UofO for being a player in this. If we continued to work toward this health care cluster, opportunities like this would be key.

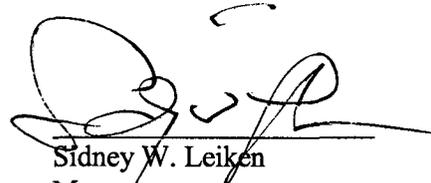
President Frohnmayer said the UofO and OSU were scientifically and technically complementary and tremendous assets in our region. He noted that those, such as himself and City Manager Grimaldi, that represented public entities held regular meetings quarterly to share information. Those meetings included the representatives from the utility companies, cities, county and schools. He wanted to assure the Council that they tried to keep those lines of communication open. He commended the Council on what they had done on the local level.

Mayor Leiken thanked President Frohnmayer for his time.

ADJOURNMENT

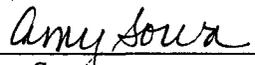
The meeting was adjourned 6:59 pm.

Minutes Recorder – Amy Sowa



Sidney W. Leiken  
Mayor

Attest:



Amy Sowa  
City Recorder