

## Minutes for 9-13-2023 UPRD Regular Meeting

### 6:00pm at Community Center

Board members: Pat McConnell, Alicia Beyer, Bob Wittenberg, Vern Moholis, Tina Gallion

Community Members: Lisa Brown, County Commissioner Asa Leckie, Walter Johnson and Ivy Carpe, County Sheriff Summer Scheyer, Pam and Windsor Copley, Robin McConnell, Sally Newell,

1. Welcome everybody
2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings: 6-14-2023
  - a. Motion to approve minutes as read. Pat, 2nd Alicia. Unanimous
3. Reports:
  - a. Treasurer and Facility and Usage
4. Approve vouchers, including Excise tax
  - July 12, 2023 in the amount of \$3,477.92
  - August 12, 2023 in the amount of \$19,037.02
  - August 23, 2023 in the amount of \$11,384.84
  - September 13, 2023 in the amount of \$21,054.22
  - motion to approve vouchers as presented. Pat. 2nd Vern. Unanimous
5. Resolution 2023-2 Cancel Warrant
  - a. Motion to approve Resolution that was read perfectly to cancel check. Pat. 2nd Tina. Unanimous
6. Reports -
  - County Elected Officials -
    - Asa - see Commissioner Leckie report
    - Summer - DNF investigation is out with the results. BNSF railway was found at fault in the Tunnel 5 fire. Crime rate is very low in Underwood.
  - Community Committee report -Aug 13 event \$11,760 in net proceeds
    - Divided among 3 recipients:

Fire Dept	55%	\$6,468
UPRD	35%	\$4,116
Red Cross	10%	\$1,176
	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$11,760</u>

- Initial Donations that covered the expenses \$ 2,550 – not covered in the above
- Silent Auction proceeds = \$5,003 - included in the net proceeds above
- Up next:

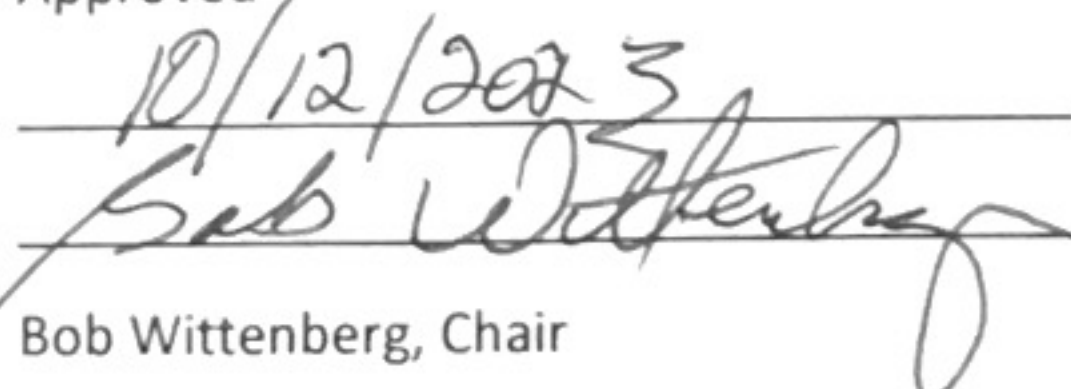
- Picnic Sept 24th
    - Yard Sale and Heros event Oct 21
    - Yard sale in the am which moves into the Oct Firemen's appreciation event
    - Spaghetti Night in Nov – not the weekend of the bridge closure
    - No Dec event
  - What do we want to do for Winter events?
  - Underwood Tee-shirts - Ivy will work on recreating the Underwood shirts for the community.
  - Committee will look at creating a "Friends of the Underwood Park" in order to obtain a 501(c)3
    - look into combining the Underwood Community Committee with the Friends of the Park.
  - WA dept of health – recommends that we obtain a commissary kitchen - Stephanie Ober out of Skamania County. Permit costs \$300, for non-profits is \$150.
    - Every person who is cooking food has to have a Food Handlers card.
    - Next event at the minimum needs to file the proper permit
      - Motion to authorize up to \$690 for the appropriate Community Kitchen permits. Vern. 2nd Tina. Unanimous
  - Community Garden report -
    - UCG Annual Fall Meeting will take place SUNDAY 17 September 2023 at 1PM in the Garden Room
    - Closing of Gardens for 2023 [Weather Dependent - usually by 15 October / All tools & equipment as well as timers and drip systems to be returned to Garden Room - see info on table to left of entry into Garden Room; Garden Room and Bath to be cleaned; Files to be updated; Fenced Area of Gardens to be cleared of weeds etc. debris.
    - Contracts remain in effect through December 2023.
  - Play Structure committee report / update - On hold for the time being.
7. Roller Skating in gym report - \$34 from the last skate night
  8. Spaghetti night - Need to reschedule. November 4 there will be a bridge closure. rescheduled for Saturday November 11.
    - a. need to purchase some pots with strainers
    - b. look at induction burners
    - c. look into a ticket system to have presales
  9. Plumbing issue in the gym -- The plumbing is done for roughly \$27,500. There is still some work that needs to be done to recreate the storage in both restroom closets.
    - a. 2 womens toilets, womens sink, and kitchen sink have their own drainage line.


- b. Pumped/drained the septic tank
  - c. replace toilet valves
  - d. replace hot water heater and piping
  - e. upgraded drinking fountain
  - f. replaced outside shut off valve that we were told to "not touch" by the county
  - g. new water line from the building to the water meter.
10. Enduris insurance update -- Building should be insured for its full cost.
11. Pickleball Courts - discuss topic grant
12. Grants
- a. Southwest Washington Focus grant -- Applied for \$50,000
  - b. RCO Parks Maintenance Grant -- Applying for \$100,000 on 9/18
  - c. 'Lodging Tax' grant application
  - d. Tourism grant application
13. Other topics for Commission
- a. Kevin Walters has/can get money at the end of fiscal year
  - b. Need to start thinking about the Levy and how we are going to promote/advertise/get the community engaged.
  - c. Request for Proposal for siding and trim
  - d. look at some form of payment for help with grant writing
  - e. Schedule a maintenance priority work session 9/28 at 6:00

- Men's remodel restroom storage
- Women's storage
- Garage sale date
- Spray poison oak
- Status on pickleball
- Grant writer stipend
- Reschedule spaghetti dinner
- Fire/Oktoberfest event
- Status on play structure committee
- Focus Grant
- Need a priority maintenance meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Approved

10/12/2023  
  
Bob Wittenberg, Chair

  
Vern Mohlis, Secretary  
Christina Gallion vp



Underwood Community Update

Asa Leckie, Commissioner District 3

13 September 23

We are going into budget season and will be limited on time going through November. We currently have a lobbyist, CFM Advocates, contracted through the Port for Skamania County, Stevenson, and EDC. Our current contract is roughly 40,000 dollars a year. This contract has resulted in 5.5 million dollars to the County in Federal Dollars—37 to 1 return on investment. Currently we have another 5.2 million in the new Federal Budget waiting on Signature. CFM efforts has funded several projects the County has not been able to afford.

Stevenson Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$2,500,000
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Carson Water Treatment Plant	\$3,000,000
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Waiting for Federal appropriations Budget signature:

Radio System modernization	\$963,000
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Wind River Road Stabilization	\$3,280,000
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Cascade Business Park	\$959,000
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We are looking into expanding their contract to include State lobbying for an additional \$35,000. If the Commissioners decide to use CFM, this is where Underwood Park District could benefit. The County could then use them to lobby for repairs and upgrades. We are also looking to use them to get the water system upgrades.

Last week, I was asked by Columbia Land Trust to endorse a letter to USDA and Forest Service to turn approximately 13,000 acres in Skamania County and Klickitat County into Legacy Forest. Green Dimond wanted to sell the development rights to their property to the Federal Government for 15.2 million dollars. Fiscally, the County was getting nothing out of the deal, and this was going to lock up private lands. The County may receive some revenue when Grenn Dimond timber was harvested. Still, there was no guarantee of projected timber harvest, and the property wouldn't be out into carbon banking once they got the 15.2 million dollars. I did feel this was not in the Skamania County residents' interest for this endorsement. I cannot speak to what the County needs down the road, so I was uncomfortable locking up more land in a similar fashion to the Gifford Pinchot that could never be undone.

New this week was the Columbia Gorge Commission is looking at redoing the Compact with the states. This results from the Supreme Court Decision, New York vs. New Jersey, regarding bi-state compacts that do not have a termination clause. The Gorge Commission is using this to address several other issues they want changed in the compacts. These changes are outside the scope of the Supreme Court decision. They may negatively affect property owners and counties in the Gorge Scenic Area.

I am also working on several other issues, mostly looking to keep County revenues from eroding more than can be helped. I am also looking into ways to bring in revenue without raising taxes. Residents are

currently being taxed in ways that are out of our control, and the County should not be adding to this stress.

Current Underwood issues being worked:

- Speed signs: Waiting on parts and permits. Signs are paid for but were shipped incomplete.
- RCO Grant: unknown status
- Lodging Tax Application: Due first part of October; waiting on submission on application.
- Compression Brake Use: Currently rewriting existing SCC to solve the issue. It is still being worked on but has been pushed back due to emergencies and other issues.