

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 7/12/16 **Approx. Start Time:** 2:00 p.m. **Approx. Length:** 1 hour

Presentation Title: 2016 Board of County Commissioner Town Halls

Department: Public and Government Affairs

Presenters: Amy Kyle and Tim Heider

Other Invitees: Gary Schmidt

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Staff is seeking Board of County Commissioner (BCC) direction on the schedule and strategy for the remaining 2016 BCC Town Halls.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since March 2013, The BCC has hosted Town Hall style meetings at various locales throughout Clackamas County. The Town Halls have changed in format over time and subject to BCC direction, but have been consistently open format with questions from members of the public directly to Commissioners.

In 2013 Commissioners hosted 5 Town Hall meetings; in Molalla, Boring, Lake Oswego, Stafford, Lake Oswego and Oak Grove. Since 2014, Commissioners have hosted four meetings each year – usually quarterly. In 2014 they were held in the City of Wilsonville (17 attendees); the City of Sandy (31 attendees); the City of Estacada (10 attendees) and the City of Happy Valley (6 attendees). The meetings were open topic discussing issues of concern to the community.

In 2015 Town Halls were held in the Stafford area (27 attendees); the City of Milwaukie (41 attendees); the City of Canby (25 attendees) and Welches (27 attendees). Town Hall attendance was higher due to an increase in promotion combined with being topic specific providing a higher level of community interest.

To date, in 2016, there have been two Town Halls, March 30 in Oak Grove (130 attendees) and on July 15 in the City of Molalla (32 attendees). These were open format discussions, but each meeting featured a singular issue of interest to attendees. The Oak Grove Town Hall primarily dealt with issues regarding the status of the Gladstone Library and the Molalla Town Hall was focused on a discussion of the county's marijuana regulations.

There are two remaining scheduled Town Halls, August 3 in the City of West Linn and October 5, at a yet-to-be determined location.

PGA recommends modifying the existing Town Hall plan to include more structure for the meetings and a broader approach for public involvement. Options for future Town Halls and additional outreach can include:

- Attending scheduled community meetings such as Hamlets, CPOs and Chambers.
- Strategic scheduling of Town Halls based on issues of community interest such as the County's proposal for future funding of road maintenance.

- Modifying the public comment section of business meetings to include questions asked through social media.
- Holding “virtual” conversations with the public via Twitter and other social media platforms.

The recommendations are consistent with feedback and suggestions offered by the Committee for Citizen Involvement which also included organizing interpreters to encourage and enhance outreach and involvement from non-English speaking attendees as well as newly-defined rules for participation with attendees.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost?

Approximately \$8,000 annually for videotaping and production of Town Halls. Approximately \$1,500 annually for staff attendance and support.

What is the funding source?

General Fund

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

How does this item align with the County’s Performance Clackamas goals?

Building trust through good government.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

None

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Public and Government Affairs staff coordinates, organizes and promotes Board Town Halls. Full outreach and promotion is conducted to ensure the public is aware of, and attends these events.

OPTIONS:

Options for Town Halls

1. Conduct the two remaining scheduled Town Halls: Wednesday, August 3 in West Linn and Wednesday, October 5 in either Boring or Happy Valley.
2. Hold Town Halls only as-needed and based on issues of community interest or strategic objectives (such as road funding), incorporate a code of conduct for participants and use alternative forms of outreach including social media and attending standing community meetings or events. In addition, consider interpretation services for broader community reach.
3. Hold no additional Town Halls in 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Staff recommends option 2. Hold Town Halls only as-needed and based on issues of community interest or strategic objectives (such as road funding), incorporate a code of conduct for participants and use alternative forms of outreach including social media and attending standing community meetings or events. In addition, consider interpretation services for broader community reach.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _s/Gary Schmidt_

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Amy Kyle @ 503-742-5973
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