

RNA September 9, 2019 Minutes

by: Peter Forrest

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chair Debby Hochhalter.

Board Members Present: Debby Hochhalter, Brian Hochhalter, Allen Field, Jonathan King, Kamal Belk Hayat, Peter Forrest, JoAnne Knowles, Claire Cofsky.

Board Members Absent: Madeleine Anderson-Clark.

Others Present: Karen Peinl (sp), Bonnie Bray, Jesus Ruiz, Anjelica Charon, Heather Flint Chatto, Melissa Toledo, Gordon Hillesland, Bob Martin, Dennis Hopkins, Dick Boak, Joanne Buck, Rob Nosse, David Binnig, Cynthia Eckersley, Ron Shilling, Dorothy Krog, Denise Hare, Helga Fuller, Kathleen Belkhatay, Lyciena Belkhatay, Teri Poppino, Josh Carr, Melissa Sheets, Brian Sheets, Megan from Salt & Straw.

The Ice Cream social preempted our call to order. Megan from Salt & Straw dished out some Mushroom Ice Cream as well as some sorbet. Shout out to Megan who served us this evening scooping Ice Cream. Entering into another Good Neighbor Agreement. Megan: we are picking up trash, if you notice, please give us a call. Line is a special place for social event, a 30 minute line. Thanks for picking up the trash. A safety belt with Salt & Straw on it so they can be safe and we can say Thank you in helping keep our streets clean.

Debbie started off asking all attendees if they felt comfortable introducing themselves and saying something no one might know about themselves. From classical music trained voices to Betty Crocker Award winners, daughter of hippies, got a D in flower arranging, hobbyist beekeeping, someone who lived in Japan for years, a Jeopardy loser, a lead singer who lived in NYC to a young shoplifter who changed their ways.

August 2019 Meeting Minutes: Peter Forrest, motion to approve minutes, Brian Hochhalter 2nd. Passed unanimously.

Announcements: Land Use Meeting September 23rd 7-9 PM 4th Monday of each month, visioning & input.

Crime & Safety, no district officer present.

Agenda Items:

Guest: Oregon House Representative Rob Nosse spoke and here is what he said, the 80th legislative session ended June 30, question to all, anyone think they know what happened? Responses Republicans left state so they would not have to vote, 20/20 did not pass, reps not charged days that they exited the state. Pressure on Boeing. Rob said, it was a very solid

legislative session. Passed a lot of sweeping legislature in education funding, health care, housing, criminal justice, paid family leave. The super majority of democrats and allies delivered on historic advances during a time when the country as a whole seems to be regressing in a lot of other areas. Many ups & downs along the way, a real nail biter. 2018 elections would the Governor Brown get reelected, negative ads a lot of blame on Dems & governor that they were responsible for just about everything that happened even for the yellowjackets at your backyard BBQ.

There were four right wing ballot measures, one from corporate interest that would have given favorable tax exemptions to large chain retailers. Another would have imposed burdensome hurdles for the legislature requiring a 3/5 majority to address such things as raising agency fees or eliminating tax loop holes. Another to repeal Oregon Sanctuary Laws that would require our states law enforcement agencies to assist ICE in targeting undocumented people. And finally, an antichoice ballot measure on the ballot that would have prohibited state funds from being spent on abortion services denying those healthcare services to all Medicare recipients and government employees. Thankfully all those measures failed.

Session started and pressure on the legislature rightfully so to address long standing workplace culture and harassment issues that were going on in our capitol. Not easily done when elected leaders like myself and others are ultimately only fired when voters unelect them. Throughout the session republicans concerned about their lack of input used delay and stalling tactics by reading each bill out loud (not common practice) before coming up for a vote. Perfectly legal. And in the Senate, they walked off the job not once but twice and given lack of time many measures were shelved or killed.

Despite those challenges we accomplished a long list of things, see brochure so if a leave anything out.

Statewide rent ceiling so landlords can only raise their rents no more than 7% plus the CPI usually 2-3%. Basically a 10% a year ceiling.

Additional funding for Oregon Health plan which is Oregon's Medicare program, so a million of Oregon's residents ¼ of our state residents will continue to have health insurance.

We are referring a tobacco tax for all of you to vote on November 2020 so we can continue to fund the Oregon Health Plan in the next biennium. The final installment of our implementation of the healthcare act or for its critics who call it Obama Care.

Drivers cards for undocumented people so they can legally drive to work, church or take their children to school.

Paid Family Leave which does not start until 2023. But allow people to have paid time off when they have a newborn or adoptive baby comes into their lives or care for a loved one who is ill.

We are going to empower judges to act independently of measure 11 draconian excesses when deciding sentences for youth offenders. These were laws passed in the 1990's and we are finally coming back looking at the signs and looking at what it is doing to young people and giving judges the ability to offer a young person a second chance.

We did close a loophole on one-gun law to make it harder for people accused of domestic violence to keep their guns.

We finally joined the national popular vote interstate compact so that when enough states sign up for this, we will directly elect our president by the people and not to the electoral college.

We strengthened a bunch of collective bargaining laws for public sector workers and protected their health insurance.

We passed strong protection against discrimination and harassment in the work place including the ability to hold an individual boss accountable when they look the other way and the company knows something needs to be done about it.

We updated and strengthened some of our anti-bias and hate crime laws including protections for transgender Oregonians.

We made progress on reducing the cost of prescription drugs by requiring a 60-day notice of a price increase from manufacturer, to patients and insurance plans so that patients who see an increase coming can change the formularies or go to their providers and get a change in their medicine.

We are finally doing something about diesel pollution in the metro area. We have a compromise and have the law only apply to the 3 urban counties.

Last but not least almost 30 years in the making additional 1 billion per year for K thru 12 years coming from the new corporate activities tax. This revenue is going to address the ongoing chronic underfunding that schools have had in our state since the passing of property tax measure 5 and 50 in the 1990's. The conservative element of the business community in this state is standing down. They are not trying to collect signatures to refer to the ballot. It is going to be implemented starting in January.

Drama at the end of the session around cap & invest, clean air to jobs, disappointed that the bill died. Would have put our state on the map for addressing carbon pollution and other states would see what Oregon was doing especially when our federal government is so unwilling to

address this problem. It would put pressure or given hope to other states who want to address carbon pollution and here is the way you can do it. Smart people are regrouping so that we can pass something in the next legislative session. Stay tuned not done with that project, trying to figure it out.

2019 Goes down as a historic session. Aggressive progressive legislature accomplished by democrats since 1973 and the issue that caused it was Watergate. This was the overall summary. Rob was proud to represent this part of the world at this legislative session.

Questions to Rob Nosse:

How are we going to enforce the pollution laws? Cap & invest, Cap on carbon, if you can't then tax levied would help support the program. DEQ admin & measure pollution.

Any other avenues to address other pollutants. Tri Met working towards other means of clean power. Raising the price of gas to subsidize would potentially hurt rural areas and that is way many walked away from the bill.

Clean Diesel, what does that mean? Diesel engines from 2007-2010 were constructed to capture 90%-95% of pollutants. It is trucks, buses and machinery that are older are our biggest challenge. Those older engines in general are very reliable expensive pieces of equipment. Other states that have done a better job at getting industries to transition to cleaner engines, they offered a subsidy.

VW was gaming the diesel emission system, basically their vehicles were lying about how much particular matter they were capturing and they were forced to settle all across the world with states & governments to pay up for their lying. We in Oregon had more VW drivers than any other state in the United States. We got a very large settlement something like 700 million dollars.

That money goes quickly. CA is spending upwards of 1 billion a year to get diesel emissions reduced in their state. Part of the reason we have struggle to have a way to mitigate diesel fuel emissions is partly due to in the 80's we passed legislation that all fees taxed on a car are required to go to fix bridges & roads. Other states can pass legislature to add fees & taxes to build a fund to help mitigate diesel pollution. We are not constitutional allowed to do that in this state. Until we change or repeal that we need to search another way to do that. We need to find a way.

Do you think most of the industrial & automobile pollution is produced in the upper valley? Most of people live & drive there. Once rural regions where exempted we felt we could pass it (cap & trade) can we make 20 20 more palatable to rural communities. All work in Salem is done in committees. Rob not on that committee.

How did you vote on zoning changes? I voted for it. Very controversial bill 50/50 with my voters not in favor of it. We needed density in cities offering developers the ability to offer duplexes, triplexes, is what we needed to do to offer more housing situations to people

continuing to move to this area of the world. Not concerned about single family homes being torn down, peoples still want single family homes.

Design review requirements changes, historical areas, environmental impact reviews we do not have. Growing as a state but do not have the tools others states, it is a concern, need a framework. Are you Interested at looking at that? Sure, but many players in Salem. Very expensive everywhere to live in Oregon. Federal government had done more in years passed but got out of it during recession.

Harassment in work place...County & state funding so much crime that goes nowhere because we do not have enough district attorneys to process the cases. There are 4,000 cases per district attorney. The problem is not that we do not have enough jail space and an over loaded system to handle. All state budgets highly contested and scrutinized. All compete for funding. Some years some entities do better than others. Partnership between the state & counties, DA are having an unpopular moment. Two very outspoken DA's in other parts of the state who I think speak out in ways that are operant when it comes to sentencing and prosecution that sometimes makes it difficult to fund the core programs for counties and DA's.

Property crime, changes regarding car theft, in the past if you said you did not know the car was stolen then you would be released. Three years to correct. Fiscal Impact statement, cost 20 million dollars, we were already doing it. Finally got it passed. Not everything gets funded the way it should. Not enough DA's to prosecute. Did not get enough monies for deputies or sergeants. Hope to fix in short session next year. County chair working on this for next session.

The state has not been a good partner with the problem of homelessness. We need to be putting in a massive amount of money to invest in homelessness. East coast focused on sheltering people but not on providing housing. West coast focus on housing but more expensive.

With increased density we are concerned that we are not handling the crime that comes along with it. Additional investment is coming. Resources should be there to address some of that.

Progress on gun control, safe storage & trying to ban assault weapons. Not clear if house republicans would not walk out. Anything around gun control, very difficult. Initiatives verses ballot measures.

Train engines and dirty fuel how do we deal with those locomotives and the vast number that travel thru Portland? Or parked running there on the tracks in Portland. Federal oversight on their time table.

The kicker, can't touch. long response but takes 40 votes in the house & 20 votes in the senate to suspend the kicker. Even with super majority in both Senate & House would not happen. But we do have a rainy-day fund setup to fund schools & to run the state if a recession comes.

Maybe a measure on the ballot to repeal the kicker, very expensive and how could we raise 1.5 to 2 million to repeal. We would have opposition to it.

Working at reducing emissions but still backing new road development, Rose Quarter interchange. Big debate with that 2017 money set aside for new I5 bridge. If we do not do it Clark County would do it without us. Very controversial stay tuned!

Crime Prevention Teri Pepino

Information to pass out in many languages. Update on Crime Prevention kind of on hold. Her boss dealing with their loss in El Paso with shootings of family member there. Crime Prevention now called Community Safety Program. That name since inception was Crime Prevention. Not a very welcomed name. Neighborhood Watch was renamed as well to Neighbors Together – Civic Life wanted to get rid of term “neighborhood.”. Walking thru neighborhoods can be considered suspicious activity. So now our bureau which was called Office of Neighborhood Involvement is now called Office of Community and Civic Life. They decided to change a lot of things of how they operate. They short name is Civic Life and no longer supporting Neighborhood Watch. Instead helping members of the community to organize because that is what we do best. Allows us to organize any way we want. What does that mean? Call it what you want but Community Safety will help you organize instead of Neighborhood Watch. Share information, intention to be on the ground block by block organizing safe route to school and other areas of safety. All speak in a coherent manner how to be safe when about. Civic Life will train more to do this kind of organizing in the community.

Questions:

East side officer with training manual which was helping train us frequently. Why the change? People who trained people in the neighborhood watch were not police. Personal Safety and Neighborhood Watch difficult for some to understand difference’s maybe Neighborhood response officers? Difference between sworn officers and their department. Portland is the only city in the country where crime prevention is not under the police force. We are different. Neighborhood Watch such a hot topic. Decision to train people to advocate for themselves to do what they feel they should do. Teri, is very uncomfortable with his. It is very difficult, suspicious behavior activity might be different for many. Examples of suspicious behavior which gave examples of cultural differences. Big picture working with neighborhoods but not providing Neighborhood Watch signs any more.

Eco Teams supported and fostered understanding of what we could do to better address our consumption in more earth friendly ways. Why can’t we use that kind of roll out program to help in Crime Prevention, Personal Safety and Out Reach.

The problem wasn’t Neighborhood Watch or Crime Prevention it was training to address the problems that now have been associated with those programs, lack of training. Training more important than taking the name away of the program and starting another. Couldn’t it have been easier just to train then renaming the programs. Throw everything out and change because we have these ideas on how we want to proceed. New training will be called Neighbor Together. One part of training will include inherent biases. Not a smooth transition.

Heard about in the future having of a police station meeting with the community. Please keep us informed when this happens. Public Safety Action Committee. People come in to have their concerns addressed.

Resources for park safety. Homeless camps at park, gone but they will come back.

Outreach & Engagement:

How best to reach our neighbors? Started over with a new group of people. Starting with our presence at the Hawthorne Street Fair this year. Ideas mentioned:

Form Outreach Committee

Signs in stores, streets – bus stops, bulletin boards, telephone poles

Kiosk

A-frame sign

One page flyer and business

Street stewards?

Greeter

Sending agenda to all apartment buildings

Welcome to Richmond signage at Division S-curve

Childcare

Partner with another NA

Committee Reports

Treasuries Report: We made 41 cents on our savings. Check from SE Uplift for Cleanup.

Sustainability: still working on it.

Design presence at fairs and DOSA

Pilot Parking Program has just hired someone to oversee it.