

**MINUTES
FAIRVIEW CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FAIRVIEW CITY HALL
1300 NE VILLAGE STREET
FAIRVIEW, OREGON 97024**

November 20, 2002 -- 6:00pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER/
ROLL CALL**

Mayor Vonderharr called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Roger Vonderharr
Councilor Ken Quinby
Councilor Sherry Lillard
Councilor Steve Owen
Councilor James Raze
Councilor Barbara Jones

ABSENT: Councilor Len Edwards

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Jo Briggs, City Administrator
John Andersen, Community Development
Director
Caren Huson, City Recorder

**II. PRESENTATION -
West Gorge Chamber of
Commerce**

Mayor Vonderharr called the Work Session to order at 6:02pm.

Mayor Vonderharr introduced Diane McKeel of the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce, and mentioned that a few meetings had already been held with representatives of Corbett, Cascade Locks, Troutdale, Wood Village, and Fairview regarding the creation of a West Gorge Chamber of Commerce. Ms. McKeel introduced Jerry Stitzel, a member of the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Stitzel distributed an information sheet to the Council, and stated that in January 2002, members of the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce discussed the future of the Chamber; it became clear that the area of economic development needed some concerted representation from East County cities so that the communities could become more effective. Mr. Stitzel commented that it was at this point that the idea of a West Gorge Chamber of Commerce was developed. The West Gorge Chamber would have a Mission Statement, four specific values, and long-range goals. Mr. Stitzel reported that none of the other cities mentioned had a Chamber of Commerce, but the Troutdale Chamber does not just represent the City of Troutdale. Mr. Stitzel stated that the Troutdale Chamber thought it would be a positive move to bring all businesses in the West Gorge area together so that commerce could be connected with community and result in economic viability.

Councilor Lillard questioned if the proposal was to simply rename the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Stitzel responded that the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce would cease to exist, and that a West Gorge Chamber of Commerce would be initiated and include the cities of Fairview, Wood Village, Troutdale, Springdale, Corbett, and Cascade Locks; each City would have its own Business Association, but the West Gorge Chamber would represent all cities as a whole

Councilor Raze asked how the Troutdale Chamber was funded and what cost projections were for participation in the West Gorge Chamber. Mr. Stitzel responded that they were waiting until January to begin those discussions, and that right now, the Troutdale Chamber is funded through membership dues which range from \$100 to \$450 annually, fundraisers, and a hotel/motel tax.

Mr. Stitzel added that funding was not driving them, it was the vision of the West Gorge Chamber that is forefront. Ms. McKeel mentioned that the West Gorge Chamber wants to be very inclusive, and that they have had several meetings with Mayors of the cities and have met with Business Associations.

Mayor Vonderharr questioned if there would be a basic committee formed to develop the West Gorge Chamber and asked who would be on that committee. Mr. Stitzel responded that, at this point, they have invited anyone who was interested to join them, but their intent is to have a representative on the Board from each participating city.

Councilor Jones asked how the "West Gorge" name would be promoted as the cities mentioned were always referred to as the "East County Cities". Mr. Stitzel responded that it will be very important to become a household name, and that they will begin discussing that at the January 2003 meeting. Ms. McKeel added that if the committee developed a better name, then they would go with that; it will all be in the marketing. Councilor Jones commented that she thought the name "West Columbia River Gorge" would place more emphasis on the destination.

Ms. McKeel announced that the next meeting of the West Gorge group would be January 3, 2003, 7:00am, at the General Store in Troutdale and that everyone was welcome to attend.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION -
ORS 192.660(1)(I) -
Performance Evaluations
of Public Officers and
Employees**

At 6:45pm, Councilor Raze moved and Councilor Jones seconded the motion to adjourn into executive session per ORS 192.660(1)(I), Performance Evaluations of Public Officers and Employees.

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAINED: 0

Mayor Roger Vonderharr

Dated:

Caren C. Huson Quiniones
City Recorder