AGENDA

Public Participation Task Force

March 6, 2014
11 AM - 1 PM
Madison Ave. Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Ave. (across from City Hall)

* Start Times are only estimates

Start Time*	Agenda Item	Lead	Est. Time	Action Needed
11:00	1. Check in, introductions, ground rules	Kent	2	Information
11:02	2. Review today's agenda: changes or additions	All	3	Decision
11:05	3. Review/approve 2/20/14 meeting minutes (Attachment 1)	All	5	Decision
11:10	4. Continue discussion: Plans for April 3rd public meeting	Brenda	15	Information/ Discussion/ Decisions
11:25	5. TTF Recommendations: Updates	Rocio/ Emily/ Brenda	45	Information/ Discussion/ Decisions
12:10	6. Visitor's comments, ideas, suggestions	Annette	15	
12:25	7. Check-out: Was time used efficiently? Was everyone prepared? Was everyone heard? Meeting process okay? Can we do better? next meeting agenda?	Annette	5	Discussion
12:30	8. PPTF meeting adjourns. Breakout into TTFs	TFFs		Planning/ Discussion

CITY OF CORVALLIS
Public Participation Task Force Minutes
February 20, 2014 - DRAFT

Members Present:	Annette Mills, Vice Chair; Richard Hervey; Penny York; Rocio Munoz; Brenda VanDevelder; Emily Bowling; George Brown; Lee Eckroth
Members Absent:	Kent Daniels, Becki Goslow, Mary Beth Altmann-Hughes
Staff:	Claire Pate, Scribe
Visitors:	Amanda Cowan (G-T); Jennifer Ward (City Watershed Specialist); Charlie Bruce (Chair, Watershed Advisory Commission); Laura Lahm Evenson (League of Women Voters/Cedarhurst Neighborhood Association); Barbara Bull

Agenda Item	***Key Discussion Points***	***Action or Information Only***
1. Check in, introductions, review ground rules (Chair)	• A photographer from the Gazette-Times was present to take pictures for a feature story on Rocio.	
2. Review Agenda (Chair)	• Item 5 was changed to integrate Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) discussion within the Tiny Task Force (TTF) reports	
3. Review/Approve 1/23/14 Meeting Minutes (All)		Motion by Penny /seconded by Brenda to approve minutes as drafted; motion passed unanimously.
4. Debrief on results/next steps resulting from 1/13/14 public meeting. Plans for 4/3/14 meeting	• Brenda reserved Linus Pauling Commons for 4/3/14 public meeting • Goals must be clearly defined: to impart info; model good public participation; and to fine-tune the recommendations if participants point out any unintended consequences. • A new TTF will meet to refine plans for the meeting (Brenda, leader; Emily; Rocio; Lee), and will present ideas at March 6 PPTF meeting.	

Agenda Item	***Key Discussion Points***	***Action or Information Only***
	• Penny and Richard might not want to be facilitators because they will ultimately be the decision-makers.	
5. TTF updates/reports	• **Outreach and Engagement (Attachment A) –** Rocio distributed a 1/31/14 draft document outlining potential tasks to accomplish each guiding principle (yet to be completed). • Penny suggested all references to the various types of committees share whatever nomenclature is finally decided on. • Penny noted the need for balancing demands on Councilors with "manageability" of the job so as not to narrow the field of people who would be willing to run for the office. • Suggestion to edit 1.b to remove reference to electronic devices. • Citizen Participation 101 training needs to be included somewhere in the document. • Discussion about the many issues with alternating locations for City Council meetings (accessibility, consistency, etc.) • The lettered action items should not be a mandate, but considered suggested examples of what could be done to accomplish each guiding principle. Specific, stronger recommendations could be listed at the end of the document. • **Board and Commissions (Attachment B) –** Brenda presented the latest draft of the B&C TTF recommendations. Richard noted that additional work was needed to determine which committees serve to advise departments/staff as opposed to City Council. Emily/Annette noted the importance of continuing to work on potential mergers of committees, while clearly communicating justifications for any merger and the importance of each committee's work going forward under any proposed new structure. • **Neighborhood Association (Attachment C) –** Emily handed out the latest copy of the draft recommendations and survey questions. Survey was sent out on 2/13/14 and 103 responses have been received. Penny suggested that verbiage be provided to ensure that Homeowners	

Agenda Item	***Key Discussion Points***	***Action or Information Only***
	Associations and Neighborhood Watch groups are not excluded. Annette suggested that there be a differentiation between suggested examples of actions versus strongly recommended actions. Make some recommendations less specific, and speak to more broad "achievables." • Penny and Richard will work on the budget projected costs &/or savings verbiage. • Comments on any of the TTF drafts should be sent to the leader of each group, who can disseminate to the rest.	
6. Visitor's comments, ideas, suggestions	• **Charlie Bruce (Watershed Management Advisory Commission**): This commission has a unique focus related to forest management of Corvallis' watershed located outside the City. It is staffed by Public Works, and has no relationship to other boards, though Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board works with natural areas in the City. Most recommendations go to Public Works staff. • **Jennifer Ward (Public Works):** Training and guidelines for committees will be very helpful. She wanted more information about what was intended by a "Water Advisory Board," and questioned the fit of WMAC under that umbrella. • **Laura Lahm Evenson:** first spoke on behalf of League of Women Voters (LWV) and shared five of their public participation concerns (**Attachment D).** Secondly, she spoke on behalf of Cedarhurst Neighborhood Association, and asked that the City consider reinstatement of the Neighborhood Empowerment grants which could be used for emergency preparedness items. Additionally, she spoke to the difficulty for neighborhoods to effectively take part in the land use process. Neighborhood Associations should be encouraged and supported to be more proactive. • **Barbara Bull:** As a member of the Budget Commission she sees the need for more direction/ training on roles, expectations, and process. Also, instructions should accompany meeting packets that are sent out/posted	

Agenda Item	***Key Discussion Points***	***Action or Information Only***
	which explain how to download and print. Logging into the network is also an issue, since hard copy documents are not available.	
8. Check-out: Was time used efficiently? Was everyone prepared? Everyone heard? Meeting process okay? Can we do better? Agenda for next meeting? (Richard/All)	• Need to start on time; and manage visitors' comment time more effectively when multiple visitors are present. • Agenda for March 6, 2014 meeting: April 3, 2014 public meeting; TTF updates.	
9. Adjournment	• The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm	

Respectfully submitted, Annette Mills, Vice-Chair

Next Meeting: March 6, 2014

Public Participation Task Force – TTF 1: Outreach and Engagement

(DRAFT 01/31/14)

Collaborative Democracy

1. Create a community-friendly atmosphere at all public meetings (i.e. City Council, Boards & Commissions, Task Force, etc.)
    a. Replace 3-minute clock with signals by staff (city clerk).
    b. During public testimony, councilors and commissioners should refrain from using electronic devices; make eye contact with each speaker.
    c. Provide a brief customer service training for 1) City Council, Planning Commission, Historic Resources Commission, and Budget Commission; 2) boards and commissions.
    d. Have agendas and other relevant documents available for the public.
    e. Mayor, Planning Commission Chair, and HRC Chair should provide brief explanation of legal time requirements to audience prior to testimony by staff, applicant, and public.
    f. Allow groups (e.g., neighborhood associations) to make presentations as a group, with limits on time and number of people in the group.

Diversity

2. Identify and reach out to diverse sectors of the community.
    a. Set up mechanisms within city government to connect to translation/interpretation services.
    b. Set up a resource service for child care (e.g., partner with a non-profit or social service agency that provides such services).
    c. Provide translation and interpretation services at public meetings when there is a topic of interest to a group that traditionally has not been involved.
    d. Provide child care services at major meetings.
    e. Take steps to make meetings linguistically and culturally appropriate (e.g., have public meetings at schools).

Openness and Accessibility

3. Increase access to elected officials.
    a. Continue and expand Government Corner, so there's an elected official at the entrance to the library lobby every Saturday; coordinate with School Board and County Commissioners. Place signage at Government Corner table.
    b. Create reasonable ways for community members to communicate with elected officials, board/commission chairs, and city staff. Provide phone numbers and email addresses that will ensure a response.
    c. Consider real-time on-line access to city meetings.
    d. Consider alternate locations for City Council meetings.

4. Increase access to city government information.
    a. Make the City website more user-friendly – more accessible and searchable.
    b. Post to available media sources.
    c. Use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Inclusiveness

5. Involve community members in the decision-making process.
    a. Engage community members earlier in the planning and budgeting process [look at Lake Oswego requirements - pre-application conferences with neighbors; look at Pasadena - appoint special committees at beginning of process to help gather public opinion].
    b. Explain where in the process there are opportunities for community input (i.e., boards and commissions, Council committees, etc.).
    c. Include tips on how to testify effectively.
    d. Inform community members about board/commission processes for considering public testimony, including where public testimony fits in the decision-making process.
    e. Publicize board and commission openings.
    f. Provide support to neighborhood associations.*

*Additional thoughts on providing support to neighborhood associations:

- Reinstate Neighborhood Empowerment grants.
- Support NAs [see Bend - mailings, monthly meetings of NA chairs, City Councilors assigned to NAs, annual reports of NAs to Council; see Eugene Neighborhood Services Program; see Pasadena Office of Neighborhood Connections]
- Create NA Resource Guide [see Lake Oswego model]
- Create email listserv for each NA [see West Linn model]

ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OPERATIONS AND STRUCTURE TTF 3 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

Three primary goals: reinstate the Committee for Citizen Involvement with greater scope to include diversity and support for Neighborhood Associations; add citizen input to areas that currently have no formal system, and attach Advisory Board and Commissions work to master plans and City Council standing committees.

1. **Recommendation of changes in the number and scope of Advisory Boards and Commissions**

   An overarching goal is align the working plans and activities of Advisory Boards to foster early engagement in City process. The objective of this recommendation is to **make decision making in the City more effective**; and to build a web of **strong interrelationships of Advisory Boards** with a **broad scope** which can address City planning such as master plans supported by staff with **efficient use of city resources**. The intent of these recommendations is also to increase adequate and early input by affected stakeholders in all major planning areas.

   For consistency and clarity, we recommend **four distinct types** of committees: Advisory Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, and Department Advisory. Any of these committees may from time to time form sub-committees.

   Commission
   A standing committee to which the City Council has delegated decision making authority. Commissions annually propose goals and desired outcomes to a standing committee of the City Council for review, revision, and approval.

   Advisory Board
   This type of standing committee is established by City Council resolution and serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council. Advisory Boards annually propose work plans including goals and desired outcomes to a standing committee of the City Council for review, revision, and approval.

   Task Force
   Task Forces are formed to achieve a particular goal and outcome and generally active for a limited time and scope. The City Council resolution identifies the term of the committee, the task to be completed, the timeline for completion of the project and other direction as the City Council deems appropriate. The City Council should consider forming a Task Force to address a major initiative or significant policy change if an existing Commission or Advisory Board does not exist to address that area.

   Department Advisory Committee

Department Advisory Committees are administrative or technical in nature and report to department staff and not to City Council.

Other city groups may be formed by the Mayor or city staff for particular reason

Each Advisory Board and Commission will have a direct relationship with a City Council standing committee as shown below. Combined Advisory Boards are in *italics* and address broadening the scope of existing Boards. (Charge 1. A and 1. B.) Newly formed Advisory Boards are in **bold** and address gaps in the City's board and commission system that would benefit from a change in the scope of a current group or the formation of a new group. (Charge 1. C. and 1. D.)

- City Council- Human Services Committee
    - *Arts and Culture Advisory Board* (broaden scope to include Public Art Selection)
    - **Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board** (broaden scope of CCI, MLK, include relationship with Neighborhood Associations)
    - Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Advisory Board
    - **Public Safety Advisory Board** (broaden scope of Police Review to include Fire) This committee acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council, Chief of Police, and Fire Chief on public safety policy and resource issues in an effort to increase communications between the police and the community, and to facilitate a greater understanding of public safety policy.
    - *Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Advisory Board* (broaden scope to include Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry)

- City Council- Urban Services Committee
    - Historic Resources Commission
    - *Planning Commission* (includes the Land Development Hearings Board)
    - **Transportation Advisory Board** (broaden scope of Bicycle Pedestrian, Transit, and Downtown Parking Commissions)
    - **Water Advisory Board** (broaden scope of Watershed Advisory Board)

- City Council- Administrative Services Committee
    - Airport Advisory Board
    - *Budget Commission*(broaden scope to include Capital Improvement Program)
    - *Economic Development Advisory Board* (broaden scope to include Downtown Commission)
    - Housing and Community Development Advisory Board

2. **Recommendations for the formation, evaluation, revision, and sunset of Advisory Boards and Commissions.**

   The criteria to establish or make significant changes to an Advisory Board or Commission includes identifying significant areas of City Council responsibility where Council does not receive systemic citizen advice. Task Force and other work group committees are recommended for projects of a temporary nature. (3 yrs or less) (Charge 2. A.)

   Each Advisory Board and Commission will have an annual process to evaluate the prior year's work, propose work plans including goals and desired outcomes to a standing committee of the City Council for review, revision, and approval. This replaces the current five year sunset process. (Charge 2. B. & 2. D.)

   Advisory Board and Commission members will have an annual process for training and orientation. (Charge 2. C.)

   a. Mayor to host an annual gathering of all chair, vice-chair, and committee members to reduce silos, encourage dialogue, and foster awareness among Advisory Boards and Commissions.

   b. Orientation provided to all new appointees prior to attending first meeting.

   c. Training provided for chair and vice chair (Lake Oswego or Eugene example): i.e. review public meeting laws, agenda development, developing goals, objectives and annual work plan. *(The new Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board will be charged to develop this process.)*

   It is expected that committees will adopt positions of advocacy within their specific spheres of interest. However the Council's role is to take into consideration the many varied and sometimes conflicting public needs and render its judgment of what will best serve the public good. The Council must weigh the effect of any given recommendation, not only on the particular area of interest, but on all other City goals, programs, and resources. (Charge 2. D.)

3. **Relationship with City operating departments** (Charge 3. A.)
   A staff liaison and recorder will be assigned to each Advisory Board, Commission, and Task Force. City staff performs administrative and housekeeping functions and does not vote. City employees have a responsibility to ensure the committee is aware of laws and administrative processes affecting proposed policies and operational recommendations. City staff should take the initiative to inform committee members about activities, projects, and work that is taking place elsewhere in the organization and among other committees.

4. **Council Liaison role**(Charge 4. A.)

The Council liaison role will shift to City Council standing committees.

5. **Opportunities to advise the City Council. Statement of the purpose of citizen engagement through Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces (Charge 5. A.)**

Members of Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces provide an invaluable service to our city. These groups advise the City Council on a wide variety of subjects. The expertise and work of citizen groups often serve as a catalyst for innovative city programs and improved services.

Serving on an Advisory Board, Commission or Task Force can be a rewarding experience for community service-minded residents. Advisory group members give elected officials and City staff greater understanding of community concerns, values, and perspectives. The role of these committees is to provide input to city staff and advice and recommendations City Council.

The makeup of these committees should over time represent the richness of our community's perspectives, neighborhoods, and population demographics- race and ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic class, disability and other factors.

Advisory group members will have the training and support to be successful contributors, both before becoming candidates for vacancies and following their appointments.

Communications and procedures associated with outreach, recruitment, interviews, selection and appointments will be fair, accessible, transparent and civil.

Guidelines will be provided for consistent communication and outreach from Advisory Boards and Commissions to community members.

How individuals are appointed

Many Advisory Boards and Commissions include community members with expertise or experience thus providing additional resources in the review and planning of city activities. The Mayor is responsible for appointing individuals to fill vacancies on Advisory Boards and Task Forces. The City Council is responsible for appointing individuals to fill vacancies on Commissions. Staff is responsible for applying the outreach plan developed by the Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board.

Anyone living or working within the city is eligible to apply for a vacancy, the Mayor conducts a brief interview, staff provides input and often talks with the nominee to review roles and responsibilities of serving on the committee and the nomination is approved by a vote of the City Council. (See Eugene/Springfield appointment process.)

For Advisory Boards or Task Forces, an exception to city residency may be considered for the following reasons; technical expertise or to complete a term. This would be a non-voting appointment.

Recommendations to increase awareness of vacancies and transparency of the appointment process:

a. Establish a Mayoral advisory group to meet quarterly for review of vacancies and interested volunteers for Advisory Boards and Commissions.
b. Every effort should be made to assure representation on the Advisory Boards and Commissions in proportion to the representation of women, ethnic minority group members, the disabled, and younger and older citizens, in the population of the Corvallis city limits.
c. Seek input from current Commission and Advisory Board chair for potential nominees to fill vacancy.
d. Review and improve how vacancies are publicized.

6. Recommendation for consistent staffing and minutes for all Advisory Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces (Charge 6. A.)

With fewer committees working with broadened scopes, consistent operational practices, and annual goal setting aligned with Council standing committees, Advisory Boards and Commissions will operate more cost effectively.

1) A record must be kept of all committee meetings. Minutes shall be taken in a consistent format
   a) key discussion point minutes for Advisory Boards and Task Forces,
   b) detailed minutes for Commissions as required by statute,
   c) all minutes must contain the following minimum information:
      - members present,
      - motions, proposals, resolutions, orders, ordinances and measures proposed and their disposition,
      - results of all votes
      - the substance of any discussion on any matter, and
      - subject to the Public Records Law, a reference to any document discussed at the meeting.

Neighborhood Association TTF Draft Recommendations and Survey Questions – February 20, 2014

Charge #8: Neighborhood associations: Neighborhood associations provide opportunities to build community and address issues that affect residents of particular geographical areas of the city. Does the City's public participation system adequately encourage neighborhood engagement and neighborliness? If not, identify methods for improvement.

Ripe Fruit – need somewhat immediate action

1) Decision sponsoring several NA members and a staff person to go to the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference in Eugene May 21-24, 2014 (decision needed before recommendations to City Council). See: http://www.nusa.org/.
2) Inclusion of these NA recommendations in the PPTF April 3rd public meeting

Feedback related to NAs from the January 13th public meeting and the NA survey will be incorporated into these recommendations in late February. Responses from the NA survey are due by February 20th. The NA survey will go out on February 6th and we will leave it open for 2 weeks.

Short Term Recommendations/Low Hanging Fruit (6 months to 1 year)

1) Re-establish and fund the Neighborhood Empowerment Program ($20,000 to $50,000) for neighborhood improvement grants for NAs to be administered by the new Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board.
2) Provide information and contacts for folks using a product like NextDoor to facilitate communication and connections between neighbors.
   a) City website hosts sign up for listservs for all NAs (Salem) (We're not sure that the City should provide listserv capabilities, when there are free resources that can do the same thing. Rather, information about how to create online groups and email distribution lists should be provided.)
3) Provide NAs with free meeting space.
4) Create a small budget to provide other small support such as providing dumpsters for neighborhood clean-ups, printing meeting flyers, other NA communication, etc. ($6,000-$8,000)
5) Assign a city councilor liaison to each NA for contact and communication.
6) Require city staff to contact listed neighborhoods at least once a year to ensure updated contact information is correct and obtain updated information on NA activity annually.
7) Create a resource or statement that lists the benefits of being a city recognized NA, something that shows the city supports and values NAs. This resource will need to be updated annually to reflect the current resources available to NAs particularly those from the short-term and long-term recommendations. (Lake Oswego has a great example, Appendix I).
8) Work with Police department and Neighborhood Watch program to have willing Neighborhood Watch leaders convey their contact information to their NAs. Neighborhood Watch can be one way to be involved in a NA.
9) Mayor and council will hold meeting(s) as needed with NAs to discuss general recommendations and reach consensus on the role of city in the NA program.
10) Constitute a new Advisory Committee to replace the CCI with updated charge and new name which also has responsibility for supporting NAs as part of its primary goals (Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board).
11) Start inviting individual NAs to report at City Council meetings through the year.
12) Circulate all board and commission vacancies or other volunteer possibilities to all NAs.

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Estimated FTE for Short Term Recommendations = 0.10 FTE (plus support from the Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board)
Estimated budget for Short Term Recommendations: $26,000 to $58,000

<u>Long Term Recommendations (1 year+)</u>

1. Offer yearly orientations and trainings on topics like facilitation and effective communication, civics 101, etc. for NA leaders
    a. This could be in the format of a NA leaders' conference and orientation every year with interactive format.
2. Offer early trainings for NA leaders in Land Use process, with focus on qualifying for participating in pre-application process.
3. Allow trained NA leaders to participate in pre-application meetings between staff and developers - Require developers to hold pre-development meeting with NAs prior to any applications for minor or major development proposals and have meetings facilitated by city staff (done in Lake Oswego). Only if we build full-fledged NAs with requirements to maintain recognition, and this would include people in NA trained in land development code.
4. Change the land-use development process to allow NA review of new or infill development proposals before plans are submitted to the city, as is done in Eugene and Lake Oswego.
5. Hold quarterly NA leaders collaboration meetings, attended by city elected and staff. (clarify later what we hope these meetings accomplish)
6. Establish minimum requirements to maintain NA status, and in future years use that to assign active and inactive while updating neighborhood list. (Eugene's NORP)
7. Modify City web page to have access to NAs, boards and commissions on the front page and to allow NAs too communicate with each other. Clarify what "to allow NAs to communicate with each other" means.
8. Provide city website support for a RSS feed/blog/webpage for all NAs (West Linn)
    a. To include information about the neighborhood
    b. Executive board members and contact information
    c. When and where meetings happen, etc.
    d. Agendas for past and future meetings and previous meeting minutes.
9. Develop a web page on the City Web site that does the following:
    a. An interactive map to take you to your NA's web page
    b. A brochure on how to, with the City's assistance, make their neighborhoods more beautiful (In English and Spanish)
    c. A flyer much like my How to Build Community T-shirt on 75 ways to a better neighborhood
    d. A guide to departments and services
    e. A land use guide
    f. Templates for meeting agendas and minutes, bylaws, etc.
    g. A three page, who do you call list
    h. A two page safety brochure, with phone numbers (in English and Spanish)
10. Encourage the development of a draft City Council goal to develop and implement a robust city-wide (include Urban Growth Boundary) NA program, using those existing in other NW communities as examples, to create an NA program that works collaboratively and proactively to enhance quality of life in City neighborhoods.
11. Develop and actively use an NA policy manual/resource guide such as exists in Lake Oswego and Eugene
12. Review City staffing and organization regarding the location of staff support for NAs, Boards/Commissions, Community Relations and the Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory

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Board: City Manager/Human Resources? Reporting structure or organizational alignment for positions support boards, communications, and neighborhood associations

13. Start building an online library of relevant support information or sources for support or improvement of NAs, B/Cs and public or community Involvement and participation.
14. Create a structure that allows city staff and city councilors to attend NA meetings as needed/requested.

Estimated FTE for both Short Term and Long Term Recommendations = 0.50 FTE (plus support from the Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board)

Survey for NA Leadership: Corvallis Neighborhood Association Feedback

Q1 One of the City Council's current goals is to revise its processes and structures into a more effective and efficient citizen engagement program. They have appointed a Public Participation Task Force to assist them in meeting this goal. We are seeking your input on Corvallis Neighborhood Associations to inform our recommendations in the areas of Neighborhood Association activities and process, communication, and resources. Our subcommittee is working on the charge below. Learn more about the Public Participation Task Force here: http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=1520.

Charge #8: Neighborhood associations: Neighborhood associations provide opportunities to build community and address issues that affect residents of particular geographical areas of the city. Does the City's public participation system adequately encourage neighborhood engagement and neighborliness? If not, identify methods for improvement.

Your participation in this survey is critically important to this undertaking. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey by February 20, 2014. Please provide honest, candid feedback knowing that your feedback is completely anonymous.

Q3 What Neighborhood Association are you a part of?

Q4 How long have you been a part of your Neighborhood Association?

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Q2 What activities and issue areas are you interested in having you Neighborhood Association work on? Check all that apply.

- ❑ Land use/development (1)
- ❑ Transportation and traffic issues (2)
- ❑ Road infrastructure (3)
- ❑ Neighborhood watch/public safety/crime prevention (4)
- ❑ Disaster preparedness and response (5)
- ❑ Neighborhood beautification (landscaping, clean ups, tree plantings, etc.) (6)
- ❑ Block parties and social gatherings (7)
- ❑ Coordinating raking, shoveling, and other assistance to elderly or otherwise vulnerable neighbors (8)
- ❑ Neighbor exchanges for neighbors to borrow items like ladders, canopies, tools, etc. (9)
- ❑ Code enforcement issues (10)
- ❑ Advertising your group at a Farmers' Market or other community event (11)
- ❑ Annual goal setting process (12)
- ❑ Other, please list. (13) _____

Q8 Please provide additional feedback about the activity and issue areas your Neighborhood Association has worked on or would like to work on. Please include the top few activities and issue areas your Neighborhood Association is interested in.

Q5 Please rank the resources you would find most useful.

_____ Free meeting space. (1)
_____ Listserv or online community system sanctioned by the city. (2)
_____ Website for your Neighborhood Association. (3)
_____ Annual training/orientation for neighborhood leaders on how to engage in city government, participate in land development issues, utilize city website, facilitate meetings, and establish goals and vision. (4)
_____ Resource manual with information about land development code, meeting agenda templates, meeting minutes templates, goal setting, outreach and marketing strategies, facilitation techniques, etc. (5)
_____ Support for copying, printing, or mailings for meetings or events. (6)
_____ Ability to apply for Neighborhood Empowerment grants for neighborhood improvement projects. (7)
_____ Yearly dumpster service available for neighborhood clean-ups. (8)
_____ A listerv sign-up for your Neighborhood Association on the city website. (9)

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Q9 Please provide additional feedback about resources that would allow your Neighborhood Association to be more effective and successful. Would any resources be helpful that are not included above?

Q6 What type of communication would you like to have with other neighborhood groups and the city? Check all that apply.

- ❑ City Council liaison assigned to each Neighborhood Association. (1)
- ❑ Monthly or quarterly gathering of Neighborhood Association leaders. (2)
- ❑ City staff member to attend a meeting of your Neighborhood Association. (3)
- ❑ Ability to provide a 10-15 minute annual update to City Council. (4)
- ❑ Annual work session with City Council, Mayor, and Neighborhood Associations leadership. (5)
- ❑ Other. Please list. (6) _____

Q10 Please provide additional feedback about communication between Neighborhood Associations and to/from City staff and City Council. Please include the top 1-2 formats of communication you're interested in.

Q11 Please provide any other feedback you would like to share with the Public Participation Task Force about improving and strengthening Neighborhood Associations.

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Appendix I: Lake Oswego Document - Benefits of becoming a city-recognized Neighborhood Association

What are the benefits of becoming a City-recognized neighborhood association?

Neighborhood associations are one of the officially recognized channels for citizen participation in Lake Oswego. These volunteer organizations bring neighbors together to improve the livability of Lake Oswego's neighborhoods. Neighborhood members elect boards to represent their views before the Planning Commission, City Council and other public bodies and to maintain ongoing communications with City government.

Why organize a Neighborhood Association?

City-recognized Neighborhood Associations receive these support services and benefits from the City:

- Receives information from the City on all issues (transportation, development, etc.) that may occur in the neighborhood.
- Land use appeal fees may be waived upon request to the City Manager.
- Can be selected to develop a neighborhood plan with assistance from the City Planning Department.
- Eligible to apply for Neighborhood Enhancement Grants, to accomplish activities or projects not funded under other City programs.
- Neighborhood becomes part of the City network of 22 recognized neighborhood associations that work together to create the type of community it wants.
- Recognized associations may testify at public hearings with additional time limits not given to individuals.
- The City can help with mailings to inform your members about upcoming meetings. The City will provide printing and mailing services for two mailings (postcards or newsletters) each year for recognized associations.
- Up to two members of neighborhood association boards are invited to attend pre-application conferences to review potential development projects in your neighborhood (a brief training session is required in order to attend).
- Eligible to have meetings and events covered under the Neighborhood Coalition of Oswego, Inc. liability insurance at no cost to the association. A simple application must be completed and approved for meetings and events to be covered by the insurance policy.
- Neighborhood associations can receive a free drop box for neighborhood cleanup efforts, through the City's franchise agreement with Allied Waste.
- Opportunity to participate in monthly meetings at City Hall with all neighborhood association chairs (held on Saturday mornings; the City manager leads the meetings and the Mayor attends every other month).

LWV Corvallis
PO Box 1679, Corvallis, OR 97339-1679
541-754-1172 • http://www.lwv.corvallis.or.us

February 6, 2014

To: Public Participation Task Force (PPTF)

From: League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Ann Brodie, President

Re: Public Participation Concerns

One of the basic principles of the League of Women Voters is the belief that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

League congratulates the PPTF for the Citizen Engagement evening that brought out a large number of people to discuss its main charge - the interaction between boards and commissions and council, and the functionality of neighborhood groups. Since there was no time that evening to discuss public participation concerns that didn't fall into those two categories, we are raising them now.

We believe that in order to strengthen the public participation system, build engagement and diversity, and enhance communication, the following issues need to be addressed, and we have several suggestions for your consideration.

1. **Open Records** – Online access to archival public records that contain reference to a ballot measure topic is unavailable to the public. This has been true ever since 2006 when there was a referendum to repeal a City telecommunication tax and the City was fined for an infraction of a State Statute regulating political campaigning by public employees (ORS 260.432). In 2009 the city removed all references to Urban Renewal from its website prior to the Urban Renewal District vote. Removal of all references to the ballot measure topic (annexations, levies) continues. All meeting minutes and other documents that mention the ballot topic are not accessible from the time the ballot measure is filed. League took this issue to the Oregon Secretary of State, and we received a response indicating that archival material could remain (letter attached). We would like the PPTF to follow up on the status of the legality of what the City is doing. League thinks the City is going overboard in its policy of removal of information.

2. **Time Clock** – The three-minute Council time clock is intimidating and unnerving, especially for those who are not used to addressing the Council. A gentle warning from the mayor used to work just fine. If a mayor prefers to concentrate on the testimony rather than on keeping time, a city staff member such as the city clerk could be appointed to do the timekeeping.

3. **Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI)** - The Committee for Citizen Involvement should be revived and its charter broadened to provide support for Neighborhood Associations.

4. **Adequate Notice** -– It is especially difficult for a resident or organization to prepare sound testimony on land use cases with less than a week to review application packets and staff reports that are hundreds of pages long. We are aware that because of time limits imposed by state law, even the planning staff often struggles to meet deadlines. Very few citizens are aware, however, that they can - and should - talk to the planning staff before the staff report becomes available. Staff members are obliged to provide information to all citizens, pro and con, and they are not subject to the ex parte constraints that the decision makers must obey. This is a very good way to get the actual information about a case, so that one can begin drafting testimony based on fact rather than rumor, assumptions, and guessing. The expanded CCI would be a good vehicle to provide citizens with this advice. Another alternative would be to provide briefings for interested public before the staff report is finished.

In addition, recommendations from the City's Economic Development Commission to do away with *de novo* hearings, and to hire a hearings officer to take the place of the planning commission in development reviews would be detrimental to effective citizen participation. We oppose these recommendations. *De novo* Council hearings make it possible for those who have little expertise preparing testimony to become better informed after listening to the proceedings at the planning commission. They are then able to provide improved testimony to Council.

5. **Cost of Citizens' Appeals** – In 2011, the fees for land use appeals were raised significantly. We believe that high appeals fees are a barrier to citizen participation. We suggest that there be new methodology developed that will result in an affordable maximum fee for individual appeals.

The League appreciates the important work the Task Force is doing and looks forward to reviewing its recommendations in April.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

KATE BROWN
SECRETARY OF STATE

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March 16, 2009

League of Women Voters of Corvallis
Annette Mills, President
PO Box 1679
Corvallis OR 97339-1679

Dear Ms. Mills:

Thank you for your letter received in our office on March 2, 2009. In your letter, you reference a conversation between me and Ms. Liz Frenkel, a League member from Corvallis, on Monday, February 23rd, when she came by our office. Ms. Frenkel discussed the League's concern about the potential removal from the Archive section of the City of Corvallis's website of all documents related to discussions regarding a local Ballot Measure. The subject of the Ballot Measure, which you note was just certified on February 23, relates to the formation of an Urban Renewal District within the City. You further note that Corvallis voters are required to vote on such measures.

You are correct in noting that I suggested the League should submit their concerns by email so that we could review them in consultation with our legal counsel from the Department of Justice. You explain that as of Tuesday (February 24, 2009) all materials relating to the proposed Urban Renewal District have been removed from the City's website, including City Council Minutes; City Council Packets; City Planning Commission Minutes; and Administrative Services Committee minutes, etc.

You note that the following statement appears on the city's website (we have listed what appears several places on the website as of March 3, 2009):

> Consistent with advice from the Secretary of State's Elections Division and the Secretary of State's Elections Division's March 2008 Publication: 2008 Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees, the City is concerned that using the City's website to distribute materials that are related to the Urban Renewal District ballot measure and that are not impartial would violate ORS 260.432. The City's archives contain numerous records related to the Urban Renewal District ballot measure. To avoid advocacy by public employees, and based on the advice of the Elections Division, the full public record related to the Urban Renewal District in the archives is available at the reference desk of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library. For all other public record inquiries, please visit the City Manager's Office at City Hall, email city.manager@ci.corvallis.or.us, or call 766-6901.

You believe the effect of the city's removal of certain materials from its website postings, both entire documents and portions of documents, is problematic from a public records standpoint. You note that had the city, instead of removing entire documents, separated exempt from nonexempt public records, the non-relevant material would be available to the public. Your main concern however, is that the material produced before the filing of the ballot measure is a matter of public record. You believe material that lets the public know what the City Council members questioned, their opinions and concerns and how they voted is not political advocacy, but is rather the core of democratic government. You also cite language from the LWVUS Principles.

Further, you state that the State Legislature requires Internet communication for most records, reports etc. in that this concept saves paper, time and increases accessibility for the public. You discuss the advantages of the City website archive section, noting the Internet has become a major informative

tool for the public. You describe the Public Library access mentioned in the City's note repeated above, which is the alternative the city is offering for viewing these removed records, is not as accessible as the Internet, including it is not open 24/7. You urge our office to review what you characterize as the current "freeze" on the pre-filed material related to the Urban Renewal District and the consequent "freeze" on other materials in those documents.

We note that the Secretary of State, Elections Division enforces Oregon's election laws contained in chapters ORS 246 to 260. Please find attached a memo on these laws, the *2008 Election Law Summary for Candidates, PACs and Others*. On page 46 of this memo, it discusses several issues that our office sometimes gets questions about but that are not within our jurisdiction to investigate or enforce. One of these issues is public records law. The memo provides references to a resource, "A Quick Reference Guide to Oregon's Public Records Law," and to the applicable laws ORS 192.410 and 192.505. It explains that a petition for a public records order may be submitted to the Attorney General for state agencies or the District Attorney for local public bodies and contact information is provided.

We have reviewed your concerns with our legal counsel from the Department of Justice. We note that we have not reviewed all of the specific content currently posted on the city of Corvallis website. We do see that there are distinct areas on the website's home page – with **Archives** being one and **Urban Renewal District** another amongst several selections. Under the **Urban Renewal District** selection, if the user chooses that link, it takes them to a page that explains, "The Corvallis City Council has approved an Urban Renewal Plan and Report that would create a Downtown Urban Renewal District. Voter approval is required to enact the urban renewal district and the matter is scheduled for voter consideration on May 19, 2009." Links to related documents are then provided: to the plan, ordinances, resolution, ballot title and explanatory statement. Back on the main page, under the separate **Archives** heading, to find a certain council meeting, a reader would need to navigate down several folders to get to a certain year's records.

The election law aspect in question is whether documents previously posted in the Archives area before the issue was certified as a measure and that contain support for the issue, can remain posted in this area without indicating a violation by public employees involved in the city's website content. We understand the League is interested in preserving the public's internet access to all of these preliminary documents that were produced during the planning stages of the measure.

We do wish to ask for your recognition that we must be cautious not to offer advice that could place any public agency employees in a risky position of violating an election law, especially if it is perceived as authorization to compare this advice to other circumstances they feel are similar. We must be sensitive to the purposes of ORS 260.432, and the concerns by the public that public employees and elected officials may have the full resources of the government agency's distribution system to distribute a political message (this is not to question that an elected official, who is not restricted by ORS 260.432 from political advocacy on their work time, may certainly express these political opinions through the private media, etc.).

Therefore, we first want to qualify that this is an advisory letter only. If a written complaint were to be filed with this office alleging violations of election law about a specific document posted on the website of a government agency, we must examine all of the specific circumstances. The complaint may bring forth surrounding facts and circumstances that are not within the purview of this office to know prior to a complaint. Therefore, this advice letter does not preclude this office's further review of a situation in the event such a complaint is filed. As always, the interest of this office is to interpret and enforce the election laws in a consistent and fair manner.

It appears that the documents in question, if they were already posted on the city's Archive section, would be made available as a "public records request" that occurs when the internet user chooses to go to this **Archives** section. This can be understood as different than the postings under the **Urban Renewal District** section or for example, a city newsletter or measure information flyer. However, if such a publication was not confined to this type of **Archives** section and it includes a political opinion on an upcoming ballot measure, it could be considered unallowable advocacy to be posted on the city's website or distributed by public employees.

Our advice in this situation:

In attached pages we include background information and additional analysis of election law as to how our advice was reached. In consultation with our legal counsel from the Department of Justice, we advise that there are circumstances under which, on a city's official website, and during the time a ballot measure is on the ballot for an upcoming election, documents and records produced and posted prior to the issue being filed with the county as a measure that contain expressions that can be considered in favor of the issue, **may remain** posted in a public records section that regularly contains other similar public records (identified as such by a title such as "Archives") – and this would **not** indicate a possible violation of ORS 260.432. The other qualifying conditions are that there should not be any additional pointers added in the home page or in the Archive section on the website to "guide" a reader to an advocacy document; likewise there should not be any such pointers added to a measure information section that would steer a reader to an advocacy document; and that this Archives section remains amongst a standard list of other subjects to select. In this way, the reader has to make a choice to go to view that document (separate from any ballot measure information section).

Should the circumstances go beyond these, there is likelihood that if a complaint were to be filed, a violation of ORS 260.432 could be found. With all this said, our advice does not dispute the city of Corvallis's prior choice in this matter to handle the situation with caution. We note, however, that the city's action was not directed by our office. Up to this point we would not find a violation of election law by the city due to our previous lack of definitive guidance in this area. Additionally, we advise that in this specific situation, city public employees may use their work time to re-post the documents in question that were removed from the city's website Archives section that fit the above description.

Thank you and let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Buckno
Compliance Specialist

Enclosure

c: Liz Frenkel @ email: lizbobfrenkel@proaxis.com
City of Corvallis, attn: City Attorney Jim Brewer

Background information:

The following is our discussion of how this advice has been reached. In February, my phone records show I spoke to Mr. Jim Brewer, an attorney for the City of Corvallis. We discussed the election law ORS 260.432 and how he wished to advise the city on ways to avoid any possible violations of election law by ensuring no public employee work time was used in a way that could be construed to promote the ballot measure. At that time I recall the measure had not yet been referred to the ballot, in that the Notice of City Measure Election form (SEL 802) had not yet been filed with the County Elections office. (I now see that this form was filed on February 24, 2009 and therefore it is considered a ballot measure for which ORS 260.432 applies.)

In this telephone conversation, referral was made to this office's publication about the state election law ORS 260.432, the *2008 Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees* (*2008 Restrictions memo*). Relevant sections discussed are copied on an attached page. We discussed how ORS 260.432 does not apply to a city referral of a ballot measure until it is filed with the county (see page 8 of the *2008 Restrictions memo*); however the memo advises that "Research, public meetings, surveys and other actions by a governing body to aid in the decision making process of whether to put an issue on the ballot are not within the purview of the statute. Once the issue is certified to the ballot, however, no public employee work time may be used to redistribute any material previously prepared that advocates a political position on the measure." Also referenced was the advice about website postings on pages 29 and 30 of the *2008 Restrictions memo.* The general advice on website information is that the content relating to a ballot measure must be impartial and not advocacy.

Therefore, Mr. Brewer's concern was to decide how to ensure that the city of Corvallis's website postings related to the ballot measure were not advocacy, recognizing that there were multiple past documents that related to the subject of the measure – urban renewal districts - and as most were produced prior to the issue becoming a ballot measure, there was potentially a lot of material that could be viewed as advocacy. The information in question that is favorable to the issue was not in and of itself in violation at the time it was produced (either because it was an allowable expression by an elected official who can personally advocate for or against a measure at any time and is exempt from the restrictions of ORS 260.432(2), or because the information was produced prior to the issue being filed as a measure). However, now (from February 24, 2008, until the end of the election day on May 19, 2009) the concern is that if the same information remains posted on the website, it could be the subject of a complaint of an election law violation of ORS 260.432 – alleging that a public employee used work time to post the material on the city's website.

My notes of the phone conversation indicate how Mr. Brewer described the difficulties in locating all such information that relates to the subject of the ballot measure that could be considered advocacy. He believed this could involve thousands of hits on a search and then scrutinizing each document to determine whether it was sufficiently impartial towards the measure. We discussed that our office could not specifically advise him of how he must proceed on this public records issue; but offer general advice as contained in the *2008 Restrictions memo.* I recall expressing the main concern would be for any material that was posted in an area that was directly identified as information about the upcoming ballot measure – that it would not be advisable to post for instance, any council meeting resolutions in favor of the issue, and so forth. I recall discussing archival material that was located separately from the information specific to the measure and that if, for instance, all council meeting minutes were posted by date, for which a person would need to choose to research, but the minutes did include reporting that a councilor spoke favorably on the subject of the issue, then that would not likely result in a violation found. However, that may not mean a complaint would not be filed and should such a complaint be filed, we would have to review it on an individual basis. I believe at the end of the conversation it was left that we did not disagree that the city could take a cautious approach in this matter.

Additional Analysis of election law in this matter:

In addition to the discussions contained in the main advice letter in previous pages, we mention some additional analysis of election law that entered into our advice in this situation. From page 28 of the *2008 Restrictions memo*, we note some relevant advice:

> It is recognized that such documents are historical documents and can be retained in government agency files. However, the fact that these earlier documents that are not neutral are "part of the public record," does not mean that the government agency may use current public employee work time to proactively distribute them for a different purpose. If someone asks for a copy of the record from public record files, the public employee may provide it under the same procedures as any other public record. Caution must also be exercised in excerpting any portions of such a document to include in any material distributed newly distributed material, – to ensure any such excerpts are worded and used in a neutral manner. (Emphasis added.)

This discussion is applicable to the types of documents in question here – where before the measure was filed with the County - and so before ORS 260.432 became effective in this case, it was allowable for expressions of support for the idea of the measure. Whereas, now that ORS 260.432 is in effect, these expressions of support would in most circumstances not be allowable if public employee work time was involved in some way.

We find that our advice in this matter could be viewed as intersecting with two different guidelines in the *2008 Restrictions* memo – that public employee work time **may not** be used to produce or distribute political documents that in some way advocates passage of a measure (page 2); but yet a public employee **may** fulfill public records request of any such documents that are a part of the public record (page 3). It also could seem to be between the advice that a public employee **may not** include the vote or positive position on a measure in a jurisdiction's publication unless all such votes or, for example, all action items of a board meeting, are included in a regularly published format (page 14) and the advice that a public employee **may** place the vote or opinion and related documents into the official public record and fill public record requests as usual (also page 14).

From page 8 of the 2008 Restrictions memo:

5. Governing Body Actions before Issue Certified as Measure

> ORS 260.432 does **not** apply to measures referred to the ballot by a governing body until the governing body has certified the proposed issue to the ballot as a measure. "Measure" is defined in ORS 260.005(12), as something that has been "*submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at an election*." The actions taken by a governing body and its public employees in the planning stages of a proposed measure, before it is certified to the ballot (for local measures, this means filed with the County Elections Office on a Notice of Measure Election form SEL 801, 802 or 803; for state measures, this means the statement of measures has been filed ("certified") by the Secretary of State with the County Elections officials), are not subject to ORS 260.432.
>
> Research, public meetings, surveys and other actions by a governing body to aid in the decision making process of whether to put an issue on the ballot are not within the purview of the statute. Once the issue is certified to the ballot, however, no public employee work time may be used to redistribute any material previously prepared that advocates a political position on the measure. We note that this office provides a *2008 County, City and District Referral Manual* that outlines the process these jurisdictions must follow in referring a ballot measure to the ballot.
>
> For initiative, referendum or recall petitions, ORS 260.432 does apply during the signature gathering phase even before the proposed measure or recall is certified to the ballot. ORS 260.432 applies to these petition efforts as soon as the prospective petition is filed with the elections filing officer, even before it is approved for circulation of signatures. This is because any communications made by public employees at this time could also affect the petition circulation once it is approved.

While ORS 260.432 does not prohibit public employees from any discussion of thediscussing the subject of an initiative or referendum petition or ballot measure, a distinction must be made between an act that supports or opposes a petition or measure and the performance of duties normally expected or required of a public employee as part of his or her job. For instance, a spokesperson for an agency, if interviewed by the news media as part of the employee's normal duties, may respond with factual information on possible effects of a petition or measure. In this case, the public employee must be cautious not to imply to listeners that the employee or public employer support or oppose the petition or measure.

Public agencies and employees may provide information on an issue that is also the subject of an election petition or measure as long as the information is factual, unbiased and appropriate to the conduct of the agency's usual business. The fact that information is an analysis of a petition or ballot measure is not, in and of itself, unlawful advocacy. However, any analysis must be fairly presented to include only factual information, not speculation. Further, the analysis cannot be one-sided, but must provide a balance of information.

Additionally, ORS 260.432 does not prohibit the expression of personal political views. However, such expression may not be a part of an official public agency communication, done while the employee is on the job or in an official capacity. If the employee chooses to express personal political views, the employer employee needs to make it clear that he is not speaking on behalf of the public employer.

From page 28 of the 2008 Restrictions memo:

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MATERIALS

If material (whether complete articles or excerpts) has been **previously published** (such as in a private newspaper, for legislative analysis or other legislative purposes, a survey before an issue is referred by a governing body, etc.) it may not be included in a government agency publication about a petition or ballot measure or re-distributed by a government agency unless it is impartial on election matters. The public employee work time spent distributing any previously published documents that are not impartial at the time when ORS 260.432 is in effect would still be in violation of ORS 260.432.

Note: ORS 260.432 is in effect whenever the actions taken by a public employee apply to any of the following: for initiative, referendum and recall petition efforts as soon as a prospective petition is filed with the appropriate elections filing officer; for a ballot measure referred to the ballot by a governing body (district, city, county, state) as soon as the measure is certified to the ballot; for candidate issues, as soon as the person becomes a candidate under the definition in ORS 260.005(1)(a); and for actions related to a political committee, whenever the political committee is active.

It is recognized that such documents are historical documents and can be retained in government agency files. However, the fact that these earlier documents that are not neutral are "part of the public record," does not mean that the government agency may use current public employee work time to proactively distribute them for a different purpose. If someone asks for a copy of the record from public record files, the public employee may provide it under the same procedures as any other public record. Caution must also be exercised in excerpting any portions of such a document to include in any material distributed newly distributed material, – to ensure any such excerpts are worded and used in a neutral manner.

From page 29 of the 2008 Restrictions memo:

WEBSITES AND E-MAIL

Websites and e-mail are now another common method for communication by governing bodies. Each agency must make it a priority to ensure that all personnel are apprised of the restrictions on political campaigning by public employees. Public agencies should advise their employees of the proper and improper use of websites and e-mail in regards to political activity.

From page 30 of the 2008 Restrictions memo:

Websites

A public agency must have proper safeguards and oversight necessary to maintain the integrity of an **official website** to ensure the contents do not reflect political advocacy. Any public employee who uses work time to produce a website that is political advocacy would be in violation of election law. Whoever is ultimately responsible for the website would also be responsible for its content. .

The agency must also be cautious about the links that are included in the public agency's website. On page 4 6 it is noted that if a public agency allows one political group to use public facilities, all groups should have the same opportunity. Along the same lines, if a link is provided to any political group on one side of the issue, links should also be provided to any other known political group of the opposite view.