

CPO 12C Cornelius and West Dairy Creek Meeting Notes

3-2-23

CPO 12C meetings are designed to inform citizens on issues & topics of interest in their community & help them participate in their government. Meetings provide a forum to interact directly with city & other government officials & representatives. You are invited to join your neighbors - meetings are scheduled periodically. If you have a few hours each month & would like to improve your neighborhood & community & their interaction with your government, consider serving on your CPO.

CPO program page <https://www.WashcoCPO.org>

CPO12C page <https://www.washcoCPO12c.org> or <https://www.co.washington.or.us/CAO/CPO/CPO12C>

Community Engagement Program Coordinator Christina_Barboza@washingtoncountyor.gov

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Officers Joseph Auth (Chair), Sarah Jackson (Vice Chair), Margaret Banks (Secretary)

1. WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS (Joseph Auth, Chair CPO 12C)

If you have topics you would like the CPO to consider adding to an agenda, please contact Joseph Auth

2. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Cornelius police provided updates, including updates on graffiti/tagging, calls for service & vehicle damage/theft. They encouraged people to call in about incidents they observe and to share any available video footage. Video footage can be instrumental in identifying suspects. If you see anything unusual that is not an emergency, please call the **non-emergency line: 503-629-0111**.

Attendees had opportunity to ask questions. Question topics included TV Hwy speeding & radar gun usage, when opposing lanes of traffic to stop for school buses and how citizens can be informed when incidents are occurring in their neighborhood or near their home.

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forest Grove-Cornelius Chamber fundraising event in April. Contact Peter Brandom, City of Cornelius Manager for additional information: 503.357.9112

Forest Grove CPO 12F is restarting (they have also been inactive since the pandemic). They desire to engage with the County and potentially collaborate with CPO 12C in the future on issues and some combined meetings.

Next CPO 12C Meeting: April 6, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Cornelius Library, Walters Community Room

David Warner, Forest Grove School District Director on Communications & Engagement, presentation on school bond improvements to Cornelius and Echo Shaw Elementary schools.

4. CORNELIUS CITY MANAGER MEET & GREET

Peter Brandom, the new Cornelius City Manager, provided an overview of his interests and priorities. One of his main priorities is figuring out what public concerns are by engaging the community and generating public interest. He would like the City to put together a Community Vision Plan and ensure their Comprehensive Plan reflects the community vision.

A concern of his is that Cornelius has a lower revenue base due to assessed property values, which impacts funding for projects. City property values are 40% to 50% of the County average and property value averages of other cities, which impacts funding for City services. Part of the issue is that Cornelius is a “bedroom community” and needs more business development. He is lobbying the Oregon State Legislature to allow Cornelius more land for commercial development. He hopes to have an answer from them by June.

Peter’s #1 priority is fire service and getting them more support. Half of the Fire Department’s funding comes from the City’s general fund and half from a voter approved Fire Levy. They rely too much on interns and volunteers. Staffing issues and workloads are putting a strain on their people. It is difficult for Cornelius to attract and keep their fire personnel since other places pay more. In addition, many people call the fire department when they need emergency medical service. He wants to put a measure on the November ballot to increase funding for their fire department.

Another current priority is planning for succession as there is a looming staff turnover coming due to expected retirements.

Peter also reviewed several ongoing projects:

- 19th and Davis affordable housing development north of Fred Meyer
- Multi-family development east of Fred Meyer
- Rebuild of Cornelius Elementary School (will trigger street improvements). Students should be in the new building by Fall 2025.
- Commercial development in Cornelius Core
- Improvements to the empty space at the west end of the Library to create a community space
- Status of Metro Recycling plans

Peter is available to talk with interested individuals about issues, projects and developments. He tries to get back to folks within 24 hours:

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