

## **REIA General Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2020**

### **Held via Zoom**

Board members present: Janet Knipe, Annette Guido, Patti Kroen, Jayne Robinson, Cindy Thompson, Ken Mergentime. Attendance: 29 members + 1 non-member + 2 guest speakers = 32 total.

**President Janet called the meeting to order** at 11:04 AM and welcomed attendees. She introduced guest speakers Ken Murphy, Lincoln City EmPrep Coordinator, Mitch Parsons, City Councilor Ward One, and acknowledged member and City Councilor Ward One Diana Hinton.

David Jamieson moved to **approve the minutes from the July 11, 2020 general meeting** which had been available in emails sent to members earlier this month. Kim Blackerby seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer's World** – Patti gave a brief summary of current REIA finances and the following **updated numbers as of the end of August**: year-to-date balance in all accounts: \$25,649.41; year-to-date expenses: \$164.70 (2.4% of total budget); total income to date: \$336.94, which includes \$287.04 in dues and \$9.00 in donations. Ken Mergentime moved to accept the report; Alethia Ward seconded, motion carried.

### **Open Discussion: Echo Mountain Fire and Roads End Evacuation Emergency -**

Janet introduced Ken Murphy and expressed the appreciation of all of us to him for his response and involvement in the evacuation of RE in the recent emergency. Ken thanked Janet for the opportunity to be at this meeting. He stated this was the 42<sup>nd</sup> time he has worked a disaster at state and local levels, that many issues of this event are on-going, that it is early for assessments, and that there are always many things to be learned from these experiences. **Right now, Ken says the focus is on getting help to those who need it.** He gave a brief overview: Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>: National holiday; National Weather Bureau warning about easterly winds, not normal on this coast; Red Flag Warning (area unusually dry, little moisture or humidity); fire started this night; Rose Lodge and Otis areas begin evacuation (many did not get "Lincoln Alerts"). Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: fire grows; Sheriff and LCPD continue evacuations; ODOT closes Hwy 101 at MP 126 north of Depoe Bay and MP 7-10 on Hwy 18; Sheriff and PD continue evacuation in that area; shelters set up at Faith Baptist Church and Chinook Winds Casino; Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital begins evacuation of patients and supplies to Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport. Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>: north Lincoln City (including RE) begins evacuation; major traffic jams – ODOT closes Hwy 101 North causing back-up of southbound traffic, many traffic lights not functioning; ODOT eventually removes road block so traffic can move north; cell service sketchy; power out (Pacific Power and Northwest Natural Gas both have lines in the Echo Mountain area). Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>: North Lincoln Fire & Rescue has help from the Newport, Depoe Bay, and Toledo Fire Departments in establishing fire lines; fire stopped at Neotsu, does not cross Hwy 101 to CW golf course. Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>: some

evacuation levels reduced, people begin returning to their homes (including RE); some businesses begin re-opening. Currently: people are returning home in hardest-hit areas to assess damage/loss; contractors/insurance adjusters given access; Red Cross remains at Lincoln City Community Center focusing on housing needs; power/gas personnel in area checking/fixing lines. Ken reminded us that this fire began in unincorporated Lincoln County. Lincoln City is assisting where it can. Ken encourages email to [kmurphy@lincolncity.org](mailto:kmurphy@lincolncity.org).

At this point, meeting attendees were invited to voice thoughts and ask questions. **COMMUNICATION ISSUES**: central point of communication and one main radio station needed; news and information needed while parked in lines on Logan Road waiting to get onto Hwy101; texting important; lack of ability to open email attachments; cell service difficult in RE; cell companies are not likely to improve what is here; use of tsunami siren system for other emergencies; land line tied into wall worked well; battery-operated radio was not very effective; could not find news on wide-band radio; universal repeater works but not without power; Ken recommended police scanners which provide comprehensive and timely information. We need to publish a specific list of what works – Century Link land lines, Verizon cell service. **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES**: need a local trained in traffic disaster management; RE – one road in and one road out; both lanes of traffic in same direction (PD said no because emergency vehicles may need to travel in opposite direction). **VRD ISSUES**: EmPrep desperately needed in VRDs; over 2,000 people and their transportation in RE on any given summer day/holiday weekend ... did any short-term rental management company offer help? - clients are probably not familiar with local issues such as poor cell service; - are there rules/laws/ordinances about furnishing properties with safety equipment such as flash lights? **Other points**: Beach could be a safe haven if there is not too much smoke; back gate of Star Resort on 50<sup>th</sup> Street might be used as egress; CERT was activated to help the Red Cross with meal delivery, they are not first responders but can assist where they are able.

**Thanks to NW Natural Gas personnel who were in RE to help immediately after evacuation level lifted; to Mitch Parsons for his video of the RE neighborhood showing all structures standing (!) and to Diana, Janet, and David Jamieson for getting emails out in a timely manner!**

Janet thanked Ken for his time, expertise and commitment to this community. (Ken left the meeting ~12:10PM)

**Lincoln City Government Update** – Janet thanked Councilors Parsons and Hinton for being with us, and they thanked all attendees who gave feedback in this meeting. Councilor Hinton stated that she has been working on many of the issues expressed and will continue to do so. Her message: “We can and must do better!” She stated that because the fire was being handled by the county, Lincoln City was without any detailed information for the first two days. She encourages all of us to email comments to [publiccomment@lincolncity.org](mailto:publiccomment@lincolncity.org) for consideration in future City Council meetings.

Janet thanked Mitch and Diana for their time and dedication to our neighborhood and our city.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES FROM THE BOARD**

**Board Member Opening** – Janet introduced all Board Members. She announced that Marty Rollins has moved from RE and is no longer on the Board. He will, however, remain as a legal/land use consultant as needed. Thanks to Marty for his service to this organization and this community! He will be missed. Janet encouraged any member interested in filling Marty’s position to contact a Board member.

**Member Survey Update** – Janet reported that we will be discussing the Member Survey at our next General Meeting on October 10.

**Bylaw Change Vote** – Jayne explained that occasionally there is an uncontested election for Board members and that the purpose of the suggested Bylaw changes is to facilitate the voting process if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of Board openings. No balloting materials will be mailed to members, thus saving the organization time and money. Bylaw changes must be submitted by mail to the membership for approval. This mailing will go out before the end of the month. Results will be announced at the November General Meeting and in follow-up emails.

**Beach Clean-Up** – Alethia Ward will be hosting a SOLVE Beach Clean-Up on Saturday, October 3, 10AM. Meet at the State Park and bring your own equipment. Contact Janet or Alethia if you can help. Janet will be setting up a Zoom meeting in October for those interested in brain-storming ideas about how, or if, REIA should augment the July 5<sup>th</sup> Clean-Up with an educational campaign encouraging people to “pack it in, pack it out” year- round.

**IT Volunteer Needed** – If you are interested in helping with the REIA website and emails, please contact Janet.

**Neighborhood Watch** – Janet and David Jamieson have discussed the separation of Neighborhood Watch and REIA now that NW is up and running. Both organizations provide service to RE residents: REIA deals with livability issues, NW with crime prevention. Neither organization sponsors the other. Janet and David will coordinate speaker schedules and encourage involvement in both.

**Upcoming Meetings** – **Next meeting is Saturday, October 10, 11AM via Zoom.** Information to follow. Patti announced that LCPD Sgt. Randy Weaver will speak with us about VRD issues over the summer and “Traffic.” He will bring data collected from the electronic traffic monitor formerly stationed near the State Park on Logan Road. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
/Jayne Robinson, Secretary