

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: Adoption of Resolution Initiating Celebrations Acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Eugene

Meeting Date: April 9, 2012
Department: Central Services
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 3
Staff Contact: Jan Bohman
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5587

ISSUE STATEMENT

Eugene's founders first took action to form a city in the year 1862, filing papers for incorporation of Eugene. A staff team, together with community members and partners, has begun planning events and activities to celebrate Eugene's 150th "birthday" throughout 2012. The resolution expresses the City Council's acknowledgement of the anniversary and support for community celebration of the event.

BACKGROUND

The year 1862 has traditionally been given as the date of Eugene's first incorporation and it is clear Eugene's founders first took action, filing papers to form a city in that year. Many resources also refer to a second subsequent incorporation and renaming in 1864. A well-used historic resource, Walling's "Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon," 1884, describes it in this way, "the town of Eugene City was duly incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 17, 1862. Thus it remained until the act to incorporate the *city* [italics in original] of Eugene was approved October 22, 1864, and by a vote of twenty-seven to one a new charter was adopted on November fourteenth of that year, the people apparently, taking but little interest in the matter, as the small vote exemplifies."

The staff team's approach is that this is a collaborative community celebration. City staff is planning some specific events and activities, and will provide supporting information and material for community members and groups that plan other activities. The intention is for people from all parts of the community to get involved and help to acknowledge, honor and celebrate all the things that make Eugene a great place to live. An encouraging level of interest has already emerged.

Public information on activities planned so far began to be distributed this week. The first major activity is one being led by community partner Ninkasi. The brewery has produced a commemorative beer, named "Commonwealth," and is donating all proceeds to benefit City of Eugene Cultural Services and FOOD for Lane County. The beer is available on shelves now and will be officially released at FOOD for Lane County's Chefs' Night Out event on April 10.

Given the City's budget situation, and the general economic climate for City partners and the community, staff is being realistic and frugal in making plans, working to leverage existing budgets and rededicate already planned activities toward this theme. For example, the City's first major Eugene@150 event will be the kickoff of Summer in the City. That event was budgeted and planned

already; staff is using that opportunity for the Eugene @150 event and including some historically oriented activities. Staff hopes to identify additional budget sources and possible sponsors or partners for some activities.

Most City-sponsored events and projects will be focused between mid-July and October, timed to follow the Olympic Trials and to culminate in October, the month of the actual anniversary date of October 17. Other additional community-initiated activities will hopefully extend before and after that time period.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council may adopt or amend the resolution.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends adoption of the attached resolution initiating celebrations acknowledging the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Eugene.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution 5056 initiating celebrations acknowledging the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Eugene.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Proposed Resolution

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION INITIATING CELEBRATIONS ACKNOWLEDGING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF EUGENE.

The City Council of the City of Eugene finds that:

A. Eugene is a special and unique place. The area and community have been home to thousands of people since 1862 and before.

B. Eugene’s founders first took action to form a city in the year 1862, filing papers for incorporation of Eugene. The year 1862 has traditionally been given as the date of Eugene’s first incorporation.

C. A well-used historic resource, Walling’s “Illustrated History of Lane County, Oregon,” 1884, states, “the town of Eugene City was duly incorporated by an act of the legislature approved October 17, 1862.”

D. This is a significant milestone that the City of Eugene wishes to acknowledge and celebrate. This anniversary provides an opportunity to learn more about our history, culture and people.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUGENE, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. Based on the above findings, the City Council initiates a period of celebration entitled **Eugene@150** to continue throughout the remainder of 2012 to:

- Honor our community’s history, celebrate the present, and create a legacy of pride that builds excitement for Eugene’s future
- Help create and inspire multiple ways to celebrate this important milestone
- Include the experiences and legacies of diverse community members – past, present and future
- Encourage collaboration, partnerships and community participation
- Exercise responsible stewardship of resources, and leverage community assets

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution adopted the _____ day of _____, 2012.

City Recorder