

**MINUTES**

**Eugene City Council  
State of the City**

**Hult Center for the Performing Arts Lobby**

**January 9, 1995  
11:30 a.m.**

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Paul Nicholson, Nancy Nathanson, Shawn Boles, Bobby Green, Barbara Keller, Tim Laue, Jim Torrey; Councilor-elect Laurie Swanson Gribkov.

**COUNCILORS ABSENT:** Kevin Hornbuckle.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING OF GUESTS**

Mayor Bascom called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She thanked City staff for their work during the past year, adding she looked forward to working and challenging them during the next two years.

**II. THE OREGON BOYS CHOIR**

Under the direction of Dr. Randall Moore, University of Oregon, the Oregon Boys Choir sang "Sing, Sing Together" and "The Cuckoo, Nightingale and Donkey."

**III. PRESENTATION OF THE MAYOR'S RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Mayor Bascom recognized and presented awards to the following citizens for their outstanding contributions:

Molly Stafford and Emily Schue (Library campaign);

Meg Trendler and Ray Hull (Willamette Institute of Science & Technology Education Center);

Sue Eicher, David Phelps, Art Paz, Gretchen Hult Pierce, and Dennis Oem (Council Committee on Economic Development);

Kay Holbo (Masonic Cemetery Association); and

Kathi Wiederhold, Everett Smith, Ellen Wojahn, John Lawless, Richard Hansen, Wilmot Gilland, Dorothy Anderson, Susan Wolling, Cathy Feely-Evans, Otto

**Poticha, Christopher Ramey, and Jerome Diethelm (Ferry Street Bridge/Return to the River Citizen Advisory Committee).**

**IV. RECOGNITION OF EUGENE'S OUTGOING CITY COUNCILORS**

Mayor Bascom recognized and presented awards to the following outgoing City Councilors:

Paul Nicholson, Ward 4

Mr. Nicholson thanked City staff, the council, and his constituents. He noted the City had changed him more than he had affected it. Mr. Nicholson said he believed that conflict was at the center of what a council does, adding that the purpose of politics was to bring conflict, in a controlled way, to the table and come up with a legitimate resolution that recognizes the diverse and competing interests of the community.

Randy MacDonald, Ward 1

Mr. MacDonald said that since he resigned from the council he has discovered what a privilege it is to be a private citizen and urged others not to take that privilege for granted. He thanked his constituency, the Mayor and City Council, former Mayor Jeff Miller, and City Manager Mike Gleason and his staff.

Kaye Robinette, Ward 5

Mr. Robinette reviewed his twenty-year history in this community and shared the following two observations: 1) the employees of the City are "excellent"; and 2) this is a diverse community and that is its strength. He urged the community to honor that diversity and make compromises of "our differences as opposed to taking inflexible positions."

Mayor Bascom thanked ongoing councilors Barbara Keller, Kevin Hornbuckle, Shawn Boles, Bobby Green, and Nancy Nathanson.

**V. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR RECENTLY ELECTED CITY COUNCILORS**

City Recorder Warren Wong administered the oath of office to councilors-elect as follows:

Tim Laue, Ward 1

Mr. Laue thanked his constituents and his family for their support during his campaign. He urged people to introduce themselves and their friends to strangers, adding that is the strength of diversity. Mr. Laue said he agreed with Mr. Nicholson that politics is the peaceful resolution of conflict and

with Mr. Robinette that diversity can be an opportunity for growth and a great source of strength.

Jim Torrey, Ward 5

Mr. Torrey said it was important to recognize that family, friends, co-workers, and employers made it possible for elected officials to serve and asked the community to extend appreciation and include them. He challenged outgoing councilors to regroup "one more time" to serve the City by conducting exit interviews and giving their views on how to make City Council service available to more citizens.

Laurie Swanson Gribkov, Ward 4

Ms. Swanson Gribkov expressed pleasure at her election, adding she and her family decided this was the way to contribute to their community. She thanked her constituents, family, and Mr. Nicholson for their support and asked the community to join her in believing that "together we can make a difference."

Bobby Green, Ward 6

Mr. Green thanked his constituents and said he would continue to serve his community in his role as County Commissioner. He also thanked present and former councilors and mayors and City staff for their support. Mr. Green urged the council to "stay strong."

VI. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Bascom presented the State of the City address, highlighting the progress made on her goals for the City: the Library, Ferry Street Bridge, and high-speed rail. She reviewed accomplishments of the last year and said the second half of her term would focus on "sustainable development."

(A copy of Mayor Bascom's address is attached.)

VII. THE OREGON BOYS CHOIR

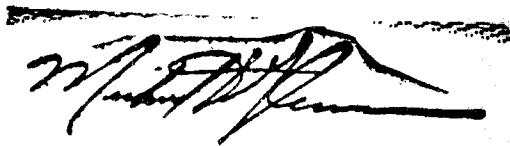
The Oregon Boys Choir sang "America the Beautiful" and "Heart."

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,



Micheal Gleason  
City Manager

(Recorded by Yolanda Paule)  
cc113009.015

**STATE OF THE CITY**  
**Ruth Bascom, Mayor**  
**Hult Center Lobby**  
January 9, 1995  
11:30 a.m.

**Welcome to Eugene's 1995 State of the City.** We gather to begin a new year and to mark changes as new councilors step forward. Thank you for being with us.

**As I begin the second half of my term as your Mayor,** I also thank our dedicated city staff. This group, I believe, provides Eugene with as fine city government as can be found. I salute them and look forward to working with them, and challenging them, during these next two years.

**Also, today, we look ahead to tomorrow's citizens, our hope for the future.** Representing this group is the University of Oregon Boys' Choir, Randall Moore, director.

**RECOGNITION of Community Members**

**Today, we honor selected citizens who represent all those Eugeneans who work for good city government.** A year ago, I stressed as one of our 3 goals, a new library. We don't have it yet. But Emily Schue and Molly Stafford deserve recognition for working toward it. Would you please come forward.

**These two have been tireless supporters of Eugene's public library for more than a decade.** They led both the May and the November campaigns for the Sears site. And almost won. What painfully close votes. But long before those votes they identified our library needs and kept in front of us the importance of a public library in a free and open society.

**Gandhi said "Honest differences are often a healthy sign of progress".** Differences exist about the solution to our library needs. We will face those honest differences, develop another proposal to take to the voters, possibly not until '96. Some things take a long time to accomplish.

**This award recognizes your service and expresses the gratitude of this community.**

**On the back of your program today is a list of Valued Community Outcomes.** It was developed by the City Council in December. One of those Outcomes stresses the education of our children. The library is one means to that end. WISTEC is another. Ray Hull and Meg Trendler, would you please come forward.

**WISTEC is the private, non-profit science center that sits between Autzen Stadium and Cuthbert Amphitheater.** WISTEC provides children innovative science education that supplements our public schools. A few years ago, Ray Hull, a retired U of O science teacher, recognized WISTEC's dire straits. He and Meg Trendler, who became executive director, breathed new life into this valued community resource. For the past three years they also successfully shouldered an additional task--being good neighbors to the homeless folks at Centennial Car Camp.

**Ray Hull and Meg Trendler, this award recognizes your service and expresses the gratitude of this community.**



#### RECOGNITION of City Councilors

Now we thank three outgoing City Councilors. For four years they gave their best efforts toward governing this city. Each will say a few words, and receive one of these beautiful Oregon Myrtle Wood placques to commemorate their years of service: Paul Nicholson, Kaye Robinette, and Randy MacDonald.

Our thanks go also to those who continue: Barbara Keller, for the past two years our representative on the Housing Policy Board and a tireless advocate for low-income housing, Kevin Hornbuckle, our member of the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, and Shawn Boles, chair of Intergovernmental Relations, and a member of State committees dealing with Willamette Valley transportation and Nancy Nathanson, the president of the Council. For a brief time yet we also have Bobby Green, now a newly appointed County Commissioner. When the Council selects his Ward 6 replacement later this month and Bobby resigns, we will miss his work on the Human Rights Commission and on the Convention & Visitors Association, now known as CVALCO.

Three new Councilors are sworn in today. Tim Laue, Jim Torrey, and Laurie Swanson Gribskov. Joining them on the platform as they take the oath of office will be members of their family. And each new councilor will speak here at the podium.

Now to look back through the last year. One year ago I targeted three goals for 1994. I mentioned two that the voters rejected, at least in the form we presented them--the library and the vision for Return to the River. Both remain outcomes of vital importance.

The third goal highlighted a year ago was to keep alive high speed rail. We have done that. "We" means state and local elected folks, "we" means hard working staff, and "we" means the citizens of this community. The additional train between Eugene & Portland, the Mt. Rainier, added in November by Amtrak with the support of state funds, carried for its first month of operation not the target of 1500 passengers but 4100!! Lip service as to how much you love trains is no help in keeping alive our goal of improved passenger train service in the Willamette Valley. You vote "yes" for train service each time you buy a ticket. Call your travel agent and say "I want to go to Portland (or to Seattle) on the Mt. Rainier train that leaves Eugene at 6:10 in the morning." This week our city staff saw to it that I ate lunch or breakfast with each of our seven Lane County legislators. We must have their support for funds for train service. All seven expressed surprise that we had exceeded this ridership target, most expressed skepticism that the ridership would continue. It will if you and you and you, and I, convince them by buying tickets and traveling by train.

In 1994 our city government and this Council created an impressive record in a number of areas! Many citizens, distracted by our differences, find it hard to believe that we built so solidly.

We stabilized the General Fund by making reductions of \$5.2 million and achieved a stable budget outlook (some didn't think we could); we continued construction of lease-to-own low-income homes; we moved ahead with plans for 80, two-bedroom apartment units that will rent for \$250 at Walnut Grove; we received federal funding for community policing programs; Furthered work on Gang Prevention; Chose the Atrium to house consolidated city services; Watched new buildings rise in downtown thru a resurgence of private investment; Moved ahead on Santa Clara Sewers, Comprehensive Storm Water Management and West Eugene Wetlands.

The first asks, "Where is the development piece of the West Eugene Wetlands project?" We are a national model for our efforts to preserve and restore wetlands, to cut through bureaucratic red tape, to keep control local control. We have claimed success both with protecting wetlands and with making predictable where workplace construction can occur. But-- while wetland restoration is proceeding, the other half, job development, has yet to materialize. If Eugene is to employ people in a compact area and not send our employment opportunities sprawling beyond our metro boundaries, we must give increased attention to the workplace component of our West Eugene Wetlands plan. I hope those Councilors interested in job development will in 1995 look closely at Wetlands plus Jobs. We have claimed that workplace development can occur adjacent to wetland habitat that we protect. Let's make it happen.

A second immediate problem. Development proceeds apace along the east bank of the Willamette River north of Valley River Center. Federal funding is in hand, finally after 20 years, to extend the East Riverbank Path through this area and past Marist High School to connect with the intensely developing area of Green Acres Road. This path has been in our transportation master plan since the early '70's when research showed the east riverbank corridor to have the highest bicycle transportation potential of any in our urban setting. But we must not underestimate the firmness required to see this through nor the sensitivity required as we search diligently for design details to accommodate the concerns of the developments abutting the river trail. When we succeed, we will know more about "sustainable development".

Last year, a group called The New Community Meeting, brought together a dozen people representing the two sides in the gay rights area. They applied a conflict resolution model to their meetings over a six-month period. Participants gained respect for each other and developed surprising areas of agreement, areas of common ground. That model might work in our sustainable development stand-offs.

To further introduce sustainable development to our community and to our region we host next month the Cascadia Conference on Sustainable Communities. We is the Mayor's office of Eugene, the Discovery Institute of Seattle, and the University of Oregon's Institute for a Sustainable Environment.

The Cascadia region, which stretches from Eugene to Vancouver BC, is blessed with an abundance of forward-thinking people who recognize the importance of sustainable development.

Topics at the conference will include developments in Cascadia's high speed rail system, border crossings and corridor freight mobility, technology links between communities, international tourism marketing, networks and sustainable communities.

One exciting workshop will focus on a bid for the Summer Olympic Games in Cascadia in 2004 or 2008 with games held in Eugene, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver B.C. simultaneously. High speed rail would link the venues, moving athletes and fans from city to city. Cellular One has donated \$50,000 to the effort. The ball is rolling. A successful Olympic bid would be the catalyst that cements a unified Cascadia region.

To learn more about these and other issues facing Cascadia in the near future, I urge you to attend the Cascadia Conference next door at the Eugene Hilton on February 16 and 17.

Sustainable development is not a panacea. It will not make our choices any easier. Indeed, it will make our decisions that much more difficult as we work to craft multi-faceted solutions to interrelated problems. But generations-to-come demand that we do no less. The future holds great promise for our community. Join with us to shape that future.