



Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2025, 4:00 PM

Sweet Home City Hall, 3225 Main Street

Sweet Home, OR 97386

Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Vice Chair Bob Dalton

Committee Member Michael Grenz

Committee Member Dr. Larry Horton

Committee Member Wanda Jones

Committee Member Dick Knowles

Committee Member Shirley Schumacher

ABSENT

Chair Kelsey Ann Wray

COUNCIL

Ken Bronson, Council Liaison

STAFF

Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager

Adam Leisinger, Special Projects Manager

GUESTS

Todd Noble, Linn County Health Director

Approval of Minutes

- a) 2025-04-23 Community Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Knowles moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 Community Health Committee meeting. Committee Member Horton seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: Dalton, Grenz, Horton, Jones,

NAY: None

ABSENT: Wray

Recognition of Visitors / Public Comment

There were no visitors to be heard.

Old Business

a) Health Fair Update

Vice Chair Dalton stated that he sent out 40 applications to potential table participants with six already returned.

No action was required for this item.

b) FAC Update

Committee Member Horton stated that the Family Assistance and Resource Center (FAC) was invited to present at the National Conference on Homelessness in Washington, D.C. in July. He noted that Executive Director Kandyce Stirman would join City Manager Jason Ogden as presenters.

Vice Chair Dalton asked how they came to be invited. Committee Member Horton replied that it was through partnership with the Oregon Health Authority and their recognition of FAC's accomplishments. He highlighted the work of the Committee, the City, the County, and the Sweet Home community in supporting FAC's success. He added that early detractors were now supportive of FAC.

No action was required for this item. Community Partner Presentations were heard at this time.

Community Partner Presentations

a) Linn County Mental Health

Vice Chair Dalton recognized Todd Noble, Health Administrator for Linn County.

Mr. Noble stated that Linn County stated that the Linn County Health Department identified significant needs for additional services in Sweet Home following the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that they expanded their behavioral health facility, substance abuse services, and WIC assistance in response to some of the most significant community needs.

Vice Chair Dalton asked of the greatest challenge to their facility. Mr. Noble replied that staffing was the most significant challenge. Vice Chair Dalton asked of the use of technology to meet the needs of clients. Mr. Noble replied that they utilized virtual methods, but they were not always the ideal way to deliver services, particularly for mental health and substance abuse clients. Vice Chair Dalton spoke of the challenges of breaking the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Mr. Noble recognized Committee Member Knowles for his work with Linn County to help break that stigma. He noted that many people were focused on physical health but did not seek out mental health services when needed. He added that it was important to provide preventive measures before issues escalate, particularly in schools.

No action was required for this item. New Business was heard at this time.

New Business

a) Samaritan Girod Birth Center

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that she placed the item on the agenda for discussion due to concerns over losing the Girod Birth Center and associated maternity services in Lebanon. She noted that City leadership was in contact with other jurisdictions and considering a formal stance asking Samaritan Health Services to reconsider closure of the center. She stated that the Committee was welcome to provide something in support of keeping the center open.

Vice Chair Dalton indicated his support for communication with Samaritan. Deputy City Manager Pretty stated she would include the Committee if anything formal was compiled.

Committee Member Knowles suggested increased public engagement for feedback and interaction with Samaritan. Committee Member Jones added that community feedback was important to the process with Samaritan.

No action was required for this item.

b) Rotary Presentation

Vice Chair Dalton stated that he, Chair Wray, and Committee Member Knowles recently presented the Committee's annual report to the Rotary Club.

No action was required for this item.

c) Physical Therapy Outreach Program

Vice Chair Dalton stated that he had been working with the medical school to support student requirements for 30 hours of outreach annually. He added that there may be an opportunity to utilize the front portion of the office in Sweet Home to support those students in meeting their requirements.

No action was required for this item.

d) MIKE Student Doctor Leadership Program

Committee Member Horton stated that Rotary Club would be participating in an event with the student doctor program. He noted that student doctors from the local area and Portland would provide a leadership program for local students in September. He noted that students would kayak from Shea Point to each of the docks and would receive a presentation from a different group of student doctors at each location.

No action was required for this item.

Committee Business for the Good of the Order

a) Public & Traffic Safety

Deputy City Manager Pretty stated that the Public & Traffic Safety Committee would be on hiatus due to lack of business and that future items related to public and traffic safety may come before the Committee due to the intersection with community health.

b) Committee Roundtable

Vice Chair Dalton encouraged members to share potential agenda items with Chair Wray.

Deputy City Manager Pretty asked the Committee to continue sending community events to the City for public advertisement.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

ATTEST:

Chair

City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder