



City of Prineville
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

DATE: May 7, 2008

PURPOSE: Recommendation to fill two Planning Commission vacancies

BACKGROUND:

As a result of Planning Commissioner resignations in April, there are two vacancies on the Commission. City staff solicited applicants for the positions through an advertisement in the Central Oregonian and posting the openings on the City's website. The City received three letters of interest by the May 1 deadline from the following citizens (See attached letters of interest):

Volker "Al" Baensch
Kendal Huestis -
Jennifer Letz

The Planning Commission interviewed each of these candidates at a workshop on May 6 and, after significant discussion, makes the following recommendations to the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend Al Baensch.

The Planning Commission voted 3 to 2 to recommend Jennifer Letz.

COUNCIL ACTION:

The City Council shall make a decision whether or not to fill one or both of the Planning Commission vacancies from the candidates listed above. All three candidates have indicated that they will be present at the City Council meeting on May 13 and will be available to answer any questions from the Council.

Volker A. (Al) Baensch
1399 NE Rosemont St.
Prineville, OR 97754
541 - 416 - 3695
baens@hotmail.com

LETTER OF INTEREST – open position on Planning Commission

Personal focus and interest: To fairly represent the interests of the citizens of Prineville, without personal agenda. Toward that end, keep informed of what those interests are. In turn, provide feed-back to the community via appropriate channels when needed.

At present, I perceive the majority interest of Prineville's citizens to be centered on preserving the traditional character of the town as much as possible and balance this with measured growth to keep the community healthy. (This coincides well with my wife's and my own interests.)

Background and experience: I grew up in a small farming town in Germany and was trained as an electro-mechanical technician. Moving to Canada in 1956 I worked as a machinist and a newspaper photo reporter. I lived in Toronto and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. In 1960, I moved to the U.S. under the sponsorship of a U.S. Coast Guard captain, served in the U.S. Army, and obtained citizenship in 1963. I worked in various technical capacities for Eastman-Kodak, Piper Aircraft, Mercedes-Benz, and Peterbilt-Kenworth Trucks, as well as a couple of small, family owned businesses. I drove transit buses for Whatcom Transportation Authority in Bellingham until retirement in 2004. My wife and I sailed the east coast from Maine to the Bahamas for 3 years as live-aboards and settled in Prineville in September 2007. In the course of my working life I lived in Rochester, NY, coastal and central Florida, Greenville, SC, Naperville, IL, Memphis, TN, and, from 1984 to 2004, Bellingham, WA.

During our time on board the sail boat we again spent several months in Florida, where we have relations. This gave us the opportunity to visit several communities that have experienced enormous growth over the last 35 years and consider the positive and negative impacts. We also visited towns up and down the east coast, some of which we had know many years before. Additionally, we traveled in Canada and Europe, visiting towns and cities with a side line interest to see how growth has been managed there. We have personally experienced rapid growth in the communities of Winterhaven, FL, Greenville, SC, Naperville, IL, and Bellingham, WA.

I believe that my cumulative observations of growing communities in three countries, some very rural and less than half the size of Prineville, with modest growth impact over 50 years, and some which have grown very rapidly, such as Naperville and Bellingham, could be a useful contribution to the growth challenges facing Prineville.

Al Baensch

Hello to All Concerned

I would like to be considered for the position on the City of Prineville Planning Commission. I feel like I bring a fresh new look at how Prineville should grow. Without sacrificing Prineville's past and what makes Prineville a great place to live. I grew up here and Prineville have seen a lot of changes in the last 28 years. I am concerned in how Prineville grows and what needs to stay in the past and what needs to grow with the future

I am on the Crook County School Budget Committee along with the City of Prineville Budget committee.

I thank you for your consideration, in allowing me to bring my ideas to the City of Prineville Planning Commission.

**Kendal W Huestis
541-447-3010 (Home Phone)
541-788-9679 (Cell Phone)**

April 29, 2008

City Planning Department
Prineville City Hall
387 NE Third St.
Prineville, OR 97754

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit my name for consideration for the City Planning Commission vacancy. I have an educational background in sustainable management and urban planning. I am a city resident and a current member of the Crook County Recycling Committee.

I may be contacted by phone at (541) 977-6016 or by email at mail@jenniferletz.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Letz
