



CITY OF
JOHN DAY

CORNER OF CANTON & MAIN STREET COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday January 13, 2026

REGULAR MEETING: 12:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Mtg. Room

301 W. Main Street, John Day, OR 97845

This meeting is open to the public. This agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting. However, the agenda does not limit the ability of the Council to consider additional subjects. Meetings may be canceled without notice. Zoom Meeting participants should use the "raise your hand" feature during these times to alert the moderator that they would like to speak.

Meeting:

Call to Order:

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes from December 9, 2025
3. Scott Harrison – Farmer's market update
4. Finalize suggestions to City Council
 - Rest Area Storage
 - Bike Storage Container
 - Bike Repair Station
 - Kiosk
 - Walking Mapelston
 - Picnic tables
 - Landscaping
 - Gabian
 - Statue
 - Flag Pole
 - Dog bones (parking stops)
 - Shade Covering
5. Adjourn: Next Meeting Tuesday January 27, 2026

Main Street Rest Area Committee
Minutes
December 9, 2025
Grant County Chamber meeting room

Meeting called to order by Chris Labhart 11:06 a.m.
All members present, except Elaine Mezzo who is excused
Minutes distributed
corrected as-built spelling

Chris asked City Manager for the as-built plan for the area and she indicated she would have Don look into it as she was going on vacation. Larry visited with one of the public works people and was able to get the lay out of the water system.

Chris visited with the former city engineer and got a scale drawing to share. Larry also had a copy and showed what certain items would look like if placed on the property. Larry went over the prospective of how much room would be needed. Discussion took place about various item placements. Concerns about the gabian wall was discussed via letter submitted to committee. Chris will contact Scott Harrison to attend our next meeting. Chris found out that the high school no longer has a CADD class, so a 3D rendering would not be possible. Larry visited with Caleb Mapelston, but has not heard back about his possible photo shopping items on the property.

Rick brought up various ideas about making sure we deal with Grant County history. See memorandum. Transparency for the public is important. The city is revising their website so it is not possible to get information out to the people. A survey monkey would not be possible as the city has no face book account at this time. Larry has been on Coffee Time several times discussing the statue and placement.

Chris followed up with the tribe about removing the pole on the their northwest corner of their property. The property is owned by a lady in Canby and a message was left to contact me. Signage about Rest Area sign and dog bones (parking stops) was discussed. Location of the bike storage sheds and bike repair station was discussed. Landscaping options contacts was discussed. Naming the rest area was brought up again. We have several options brought up by the committee. According to Didgette McKracin, the digital file for the walking map was purchased by the city. They should have a copy. Chris will follow up with the city.

Timeline for presentation to the City Council was discussed. It was decided that the committee would present our recommendations at the January 27th meeting. It was

recommended that we meet at 11:00 a.m. on the January 27th to discussed what we want to present to the City Council. It was decide that we would like to City Council to have a decision by February 24th.

Larry brought up the rest rooms again. Will visited again and make recommendations to the city.

Next meeting will be January 13, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Chamber meeting room.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00



Detailed proposal for Pit Stop plaza

1 message

Rick LaMountain <rflamountain@peoplepc.com>

Sat, Jan 3, 2026 at 7:24 PM

To: chrislabhart@gmail.com, shannon.adair@1188brewing.com, larrydecew971@gmail.com, stmavis8@gmail.com, elainemezzo@gmail.com, swanksters@yahoo.com

Cc: bethelm@johnday-or.gov, rflamountain@peoplepc.com

Fellow members of the Corner of Canton and Main Street Committee:

Herewith, I submit a detailed proposal to transform the Pit Stop plaza into a beautiful, welcoming and useful town square. At Tuesday's meeting, I'll distribute a diagram and photos as visual accompaniments to this text.

I'll begin at the sidewalk along West Main Street that fronts the plaza and move southward toward the plaza's rear:

(1) Planted within the earthen strip that lies between the sidewalk and the two gabion walls that stand to each side of the plaza's front entrance: grass and/or low shrubbery.

(2) Within that strip, and on either side of the entrance, two 20-foot-high flagpoles, with the east flagpole topped by the U.S. flag and the west flagpole by the Oregon state flag (both illuminated during nighttime hours).

(3) Affixed to the vertical, north-facing facades of the gabion walls: Wooden planks that cover the stones. Emblazoned across the eastmost plank: the words "JOHN DAY" in foot- or foot-and-a-half-tall bronzed capital letters; across the westmost plank: "PIONEER PLAZA" in the same-sized letters.

(4) Affixed to the horizontal tops of the gabion walls: Wooden planks that cover the stones. Affixed to the top of each plank: three circular stone planters, spaced evenly apart, filled with deer-resistant flowers, ferns or other vegetation.

(5) In the plaza's northeast corner: "The Promised Land," surrounded by a one-and-a-half-foot-wide strip of vegetation.

(6) Along the earthen strip that spans the plaza's west edge between the sidewalk and the restrooms: Grass topped by three evenly-spaced benches, with trees planted in between.

(7) East of the middle bench mentioned in (6), just inside the plaza itself, a narrow rectangular strip of spongy cinder topped by three riding toys for small children.

(8) In the south-central portion of the plaza, an informational kiosk with text and images on both (or all) sides.

(9) Centered at the plaza's southern terminus: A three-by-four-foot-wide, three-foot-tall water feature embellished with thematic/design elements that highlight Paiute history or culture.

(10) Arranged in a north-facing semicircle around the water feature: three curved benches.

I believe these additions would go far to transform the plaza from the bland, featureless expanse of paver stone it is today into an attractive town square that is admired, appreciated and utilized by residents and visitors far into the future.

A word about the Farmers Market vendors:

The City of John Day has a special-event agreement with the Grant County Farmers Market that specifies the market's vendors may access the plaza for six-and-a-half hours every Saturday between June and October. This amounts to 22 days over the course of an entire year.

The agreement does not, however, (a) specify how much square footage the city is obligated to provide the vendors or (b) prohibit the city from making additions to the plaza that might reduce the amount of that footage. Consequently, I don't believe the committee should constrain itself from suggesting additions that might reduce the square footage if it believed those additions would enhance the plaza's permanent, year-round use and attractiveness.

My own observation of Farmers Market events is that vendors are not so numerous that they are crowded or pinched for space (indeed, there always seems to be ample space for both vendors and customers) and that a modest reduction in square footage would not impinge on the Market's ability to function. And, in fact, permanent improvements that enhanced the plaza's year-round attractiveness and usability likely would attract more, not fewer, customers to Farmers Market events.

Thank you for reading this. I'll see you at Tuesday's meeting.

Rick LaMountain
(541) 620-3800