

MARIJUANA: City held first of several workshops

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adopt regulations regarding time, place and manner (TPM) of marijuana production, processing and/or distribution. The City will also probably have to change its Development Code to account for cannabis-related activities.

The Council is poised to undertake a series of workshops on the subject, some of which will likely invite testimony from the public.

Erin Herburger, who owns and operates Cascade Trailstop Market in Sisters with her husband, Drew, told the Council, "I see the benefits of allowing these sales as glaringly obvious."

She noted that revenue from taxes on marijuana sales support a variety of public services, and that many people in Sisters drive to Bend to obtain marijuana. She believes that a local dispensary would have benefits — and that protocols are in place to prevent sales to minors.

"The need is there, and my input is to keep it local," she said.

In 2014, voters in Sisters rejected a measure that would have allowed medical marijuana in Sisters. However, in 2015, voters in the City precinct showed a 51 percent approval of the state measure legalizing medical marijuana,

according to City Manager Brant Kucera.

"I think the tide has shifted to a higher percentage of acceptance from four years ago," said Council President Nancy Connolly.

Connolly said she surveyed about 30 local residents of varying demographics, and found the large majority in favor of allowing some form of regulated commerce.

The shape that commerce would take can be regulated by the time, place and manner rules the City Council will establish. Those rules can regulate location, hours of operation and the manner of operation and/or public access.

City Attorney Jeremy Green said he can provide TMP guidelines from the state and from other cities in Oregon and then the Council can refine them and tailor them to suit Sisters' particular needs.

"What's good for Bend is not necessarily good for Sisters," he said. "I really



don't want to suppose what's pre- going guys." to work for you

Councilor Andrea Blum said that she is setting aside any personal biases she might have and looking at cannabis as an agricultural product. She sees a dispensary as a "market" analogous to a food stand or shop.

"Processors I looked at (as) that's the cannery," she said. She is not certain that

processing is appropriate for Sisters, and if so it would fit best in the industrial park. She requested a map that would lay out what might go where.

State law allows cities to impose a tax of up to 3 percent on marijuana retailers. Such a tax would have to be approved by voters in a general election — possibly in

November. City Manager Kucera recommended that the City Council seek the full amount.

"I would recommend that you put 3 percent on ballot," he said. "It will easily pass. Don't shortchange yourself; this is a new revenue source for us."

The City Council will hold another workshop on the subject on Wednesday, February 14, at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.



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