

# Regional survey underway to help shape vision plan

A group of agencies and nonprofits, led by the City of Sisters, is embarking on a visioning and planning initiative to help determine what kind of community residents want Sisters Country to be in 5, 10 and 20 years.

The Sisters Country Horizons initiative will officially launch with a regional survey of residents in mid-March. Following several months of community outreach, visioning and planning work, a Vision Action Plan is expected to be released in late 2018 or early 2019.

A logo has been designed for the effort, and a website ([www.sistershorizons.org](http://www.sistershorizons.org)) will go live in mid-March, along with a Facebook page.

The last, similar visioning project for Sisters was completed in 2007. The city and the surrounding unincorporated community has grown significantly since then.

“We want to look at where we currently are as a community, what we value, and where we would like to go,” said Patrick Davenport, City of Sisters Community Development Director. “This is a great opportunity for

residents and community leaders to shape our future together — and for the benefit of all.”

Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Community Development Director, agreed. “This is an extraordinary opportunity for city and county residents to collaborate on a collective vision for the future of this region,” he said. Lelack added this is the first area-specific plan for unincorporated Sisters Country.

NXT Consulting Group of Portland and Bend will oversee the project’s scope of work. As project sponsor, the

City of Sisters will provide funding and staff support, as will Deschutes County and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC).

Portland State University’s “Oregon’s Kitchen Table,” a program at PSU’s College of Urban and Public Affairs, will help with community outreach work. This will include a series of community meetings facilitated by trained volunteers as well as DIY “kitchen table” sessions led by residents themselves in April and May, and four major community forums, each on a different

focus area, in May and June.

Citizens4Community of Sisters also will help with outreach during its Values & Visioning events on March 9-10 and March 16-17. Visitors to the Values & Visioning booths can fill out a short Sisters Country Horizons questionnaire and engage in other activities. The booths will be staffed from 2:30 to 6 p.m., March 9, at Ray’s Food Place; from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., March 10, at Ray’s Food Place; from 2 to 5:30 p.m., March 16, at the Sisters Library; and from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., March 17, at Suttle Tea.

## City snapshot

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

• At the Thursday, March 15, Sisters Planning Commission meeting there will be a public hearing on SP#18-01 for Sisters RV Park. The park, located on the triangle of land at the junction of Highways 20 and 126 at the east end of town, is requesting permission to expand the existing manufactured dwelling park to include an additional 12 spaces for non-transient siting of recreational vehicles. The spaces are intended for long-term residential use only. The public may give testimony at the hearing or send correspondence prior to the meeting to Community Development Director Patrick Davenport at [pdavenport@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:pdavenport@ci.sisters.or.us).

• On March 14, the Roundabout Art Committee will present to Sisters City Council their recommendation for the art installation in the Highway 20/Barclay Avenue roundabout. They have reviewed over 700 opinion forms from local citizens.

• The City Council and City staff are currently investigating whether or not to extend the Urban Renewal Agency in its current form, beyond 2023, when it is set to expire. There is a current fund balance of \$360,000 for which Council is considering possible projects. One possibility is the Adams Avenue streetscape project, which would be consistent with the current URA goals and would use a portion of the funds. Adams is relatively underdeveloped, with no sidewalks, curbs, crosswalks, or lighting, although it is part of the downtown commercial area. Councilors and staff believe that such improvements might make Adams Avenue

more attractive to developers and businesses.

• Nathan Garrison of the Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office reported to City Council that methamphetamine is currently the number-one cause of drug overdoses in Deschutes County, with heroin a close second. He also voiced concern about the appearance locally of fentanyl, heroin’s synthetic cousin, used to treat severe pain, which also has a high risk for addiction and dependence. Fentanyl can cause respiratory distress and death when taken in high doses or when combined with other substances, especially alcohol. Fentanyl is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and many times more potent than heroin. A three-milligram dose of Fentanyl is enough to kill an average-sized adult male.

• Public Works Director Paul Bertagna announced the City has received a \$50,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation for installation of an eight-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of Locust Street, from City Hall all the way to the Lodge at Sisters senior living facility. There is no requirement for matching funds by the City.

• The City Parks Advisory Board will be electing a new chair and vice chair at their Wednesday, March 7 meeting, 4 p.m. at City Hall. There will be continued discussion regarding replacement of the Village Green play structure in preparation for applying for the 2018 Oregon Parks and Recreation local government grant.

• The Urban Forestry Board will meet Monday, March 12, 2018, at 3 p.m. at City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

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