

## MARIJUANA: Council agreed to set referendum vote

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no business will be issued a license if what it does is against any local, state, or federal law. Marijuana is listed as a Schedule 1 drug by the federal government and therefore, a banned substance.

Councilor Andrea Blum suggested, "We need to take the temperature of the community again."

"I always hate it when government makes a decision for the people," said Councilor Richard Esterman. He agreed the people should get to vote. "When this many people show up (indicating a full chamber at the Wednesday, March 14 meeting) we need to vote."

Council President Nancy Connolly countered that she has been out in the community talking to a wide range of citizens. Many of them support allowing marijuana-related businesses in town but they don't attend the public meetings to speak in favor due to the stigma attached to marijuana by some people.

Councilor David Asson did not want to see a vote because the results would be

"unpredictable." He would rather have the citizens express their thoughts and feelings thoroughly now in public meetings and not wait until November for a vote.

Connolly initially stated she didn't think the City needed another vote and that the Council needed "to do what we were elected to do. We need to do the work of the people — for or against." In a final head nod by councilors, Connolly said she wouldn't oppose a ballot measure.

Although Ryan initially said he thought work on time, place, and manner (TPMs) regulations could be put on hold until after the November election, by the end of discussion, all five councilors agreed that City staff and legal counsel should proceed to draw up TPMs regarding marijuana-related businesses. By doing that, if voters approve having such businesses in Sisters, the regulations are all in place. If voters defeat the ballot measure, and at some time in the future the federal government legalizes marijuana, the regulations are already in place.

The City would have the results of the ballot measure to back up prohibition and would not have to rely on the wording of the business license application.

## LETTERS

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(SCA) for five years. During this time I have witnessed the consistent kind, caring, patient treatment of all the students. When you walk into the school you feel a warm, loving atmosphere.

SCA is in a crunch due to lower enrollment. These students and teachers are part of the Sisters community, they need our support and help.

As a grandparent, taxpayer and a founding member of the Sisters Schools Foundation, I urge our community to step forward and support SCA. What better investment than these beautiful children who will eventually be adult members and taxpayers for the city of Sisters.

We will be supporting Sisters Christian Academy in several ways — volunteering, fundraising and, yes, financially, too.

Patricia and Roger Lamoureux

♦ ♦ ♦

To the Editor:

Thank you for sharing with the community the financial situation and enrollment challenges of Sisters Christian Academy (SCA). SCA is more than a school to the students and parents that have been touched by its devotion. To all that enter its doors, Sisters Christian

Academy is a family and a home. The school is a safe, loving environment where communication between teachers and parents is a foundation for academic growth for each child. With small student-to-teacher ratios, children flourish and parents feel connected to the staff. SCA is a school where children say the Pledge of Allegiance and God's love is taught as students learn respect and morals.

Teachers carefully evaluate and tailor education to the needs of each student. For children that are at or above grade level, the teachers academically challenge them to go the distance and often have them doing work above grade level. For children that are behind, have a learning disability, or just need a little extra help; the teachers are supportive and encouraging. With less students than an average classroom, they can spend extra time with those that need more assistance and give them the tools they need to succeed. With such a supportive family of staff as mentors, respectful behavior is both illustrated by example and reinforced.

Day in and day out the teachers and staff are showing the love and faithfulness of Christ in real time, and it is making an impact on the next generation. As we look toward the future, please join us in celebrating the blessings of Sisters Christian Academy.

Eryn Elbers, Kim Williams, Katie Van Handel  
SCA parents

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