

# City Council distributes grants

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Sisters City Council distributed \$38,185 among 23 nonprofits and other entities that provide programs and services in the Sisters area. Community Grants are awarded for the purpose of meeting essential needs, educational enrichment, recreational opportunities and other miscellaneous community needs.

There were 25 applicants requesting \$94,000. Two were deemed not to meet the award criteria. The City had budgeted \$40,000 for FY2020-21 grant funds. The unallocated \$1,815 will be available for possible special needs that may arise during the fiscal year.

Deliberations among Council members addressed concerns of Councilor Richard Esterman that several of the requests, in his view, qualified as money for operating expenses, not an approved use.

In evaluating requests for funds, the Council considers: the requesting organization's history of success; the organizational and financial stability of the requesting organization; the number and types of community members served by the request;

## City of Sisters Community Grant allocations

Advocate for Life Skills and Opportunities.....	\$1,063
Age Friendly Sisters Country.....	\$630
Assistance League of Bend (for Sisters children) .....	\$888
Citizens 4 Community.....	\$625
Circle of Friends .....	\$1,830
Family Access Network (Sisters) utility payments .....	\$900
Family Access Network (Sisters) shower tokens .....	\$3,300
Furry Friends .....	\$1,800
Heart of Oregon Corps .....	\$1,900
Kiwanis of Sisters .....	\$1,250
Seed to Table Oregon .....	\$1,360
Sisters Farmers Market.....	\$2,500
Sisters Folk Festival .....	\$1,925
Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show .....	\$5,150
Sisters Science Club.....	\$750
SMART.....	\$440
SOAR.....	\$3,625
Sisters Outdoor Leadership Experience.....	\$820
Three Sisters Historical Society .....	\$1,400
Together for Children .....	\$1,750
VFW Post 8138 (Sisters) .....	\$580
Warfighter Outfitters Inc.....	\$2,200
Wellhouse Church/Wellhouse Market .....	\$1,500

the ability to measure and track the effectiveness of the project or service; and grant funds will not be used for travel, budget deficits, or for routine operating expenses.

What qualifies as operating expenses is not clearly spelled out. Councilors thought that given the unusual circumstances of organizations being impacted by COVID-19, they would allow for leniency in funding this year and agreed to clarify

the requirements prior to next year's awards.

The City's ability to fund the grants from year-to-year depends on the City's financial resources available when the budget committee establishes the budget for the next fiscal year. This year's \$40,000 was twice the amount allocated in FY2019-20.

# City snapshot – five file for council race

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• Five Sisters residents have filed as candidates to be on the November general election ballot for three positions on the Sisters City Council. Councilors whose terms expire this year include Chuck Ryan, Andrea Blum, and Richard Esterman. The five candidates for three positions are: Gary Ross; Elizabeth Fisher; incumbent Andrea Blum; Susan Cobb; and Jennifer Letz.

• City councilors approved a purchase agreement between Sisters School District and the City of Sisters for right-of-way acquisition for the Locust/Highway 20 roundabout, to be constructed in partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation. The agreement is subject to legal revision and review.

• An affordable housing grant agreement between Sisters Habitat for Humanity

and the City of Sisters for \$6,627 was approved by City Council last week. Habitat was the first and only applicant for the affordable housing program grant which was established to encourage the development of affordable housing for the citizens of Sisters. The grant will be used to aid the construction of three units in ClearPine.

• Council approved the adoption of Resolution 2020-28, which promotes welcoming, serving, and protecting residents and visitors without regard to race, origin, religion, income, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status. In light of current events occurring nationally, and the importance of facilitating community conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, staff researched and drafted a broad and holistic resolution emphasizing the importance of creating a safe, welcoming space for all members of our community and visitors.

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