

Plans progress for sand volleyball courts

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

In terms of new amenities at Keizer Rapids Park, most of the attention has been paid to the upcoming Big Toy playground project.

That's not the only amenity being worked on, however.

Last September, Hans Schneider pledged his willingness to put in a new sand volleyball court at KRP.

Schneider brought the topic up again at the March 10 Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

"Volleyball is a major part of fall sports, but there's no place for kids to play it in Keizer except a gym," he said.

"We're hoping to get two or three sand volleyball courts at Keizer Rapids Park, which could be used year-round. We've been doing quite a bit of research. We're trying to make a place where kids can go to play volleyball. We're trying to create a program to teach (younger) kids how to play volleyball.

"My wife and I have pledged \$20,000 to build these courts," Schneider added. "It's so generations to come can

play volleyball here. Once the court are built, there is virtually no maintenance. You would need new nets every three to five years. They last if they're built right."

Parks Board member Dylan Juran asked about the current "ragtag" sand volleyball court.

"That court wasn't built properly," Schneider said. "We don't use it. These would be professional courts."

Bill Lawyer, Public Works director for Keizer, said the new KRP master plan approved last year calls for a new parking lot to be added south of the one currently at the dog park, with room south of that for two new volleyball courts.

"There should be room," Lawyer said. "It will replace the sand court that's there now and basically be in the same area."

Schneider said he'd be happy with two courts and perhaps a third. He also pointed out he's been involved in coaching volleyball for about 20 years.

"Four years ago we started a high school volleyball program with the sand court at Chemeketa (Community

College)," Schneider said. "We want to see something like that for Keizer kids. If we do, there will be some incredible volleyball at McNary, not that there's isn't now."

Schneider submitted a bid showing the project would cost about \$33,000.

"How would you get the rest of the money?" Parks Board chair David Loudon asked.

"I'm hoping the city can put it in," Schneider responded.

Loudon suggested Schneider could apply for the Parks Board's matching grant program, which partners city funds with volunteer labor and materials to get projects done. Lawyer said the city's System Development Charges (SDCs) could also be an option.

Clint Holland wanted to know what kind of timeline Schneider was looking at.

"How soon do you want to start working on this?" Holland asked.

Schneider made it sound like the sooner, the better.

"Whenever we can," he said. "If we could do it this year, that would be great."

After more discussion, Loudon asked Schneider what he wanted the Parks Board to do at the meeting.

"I would like you to approve putting in sand courts," Schneider said.

Holland made a motion to send a request to the Keizer City Council to pay for the remaining cost of three courts, with Lawyer amending to include measurements to make sure the courts fit in the space. The motion was approved unanimously.

Juran talked about the proposal during his committee report to the Keizer City Council on Monday. Councilors overall expressed support for the idea, with mayor Cathy Clark suggesting the Parks Board matching grant program be used first before any other city funds.



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy
Keizer's Hans Schneider would like to replace the current sand volleyball court at Keizer Rapids Park with at least two new ones.

Takin' it to their street...



Photo courtesy Martin Doerfler
Members of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association did their annual clean-up along Chemawa Road last weekend. Pictured are (L to R) Cathy Lincoln, Rhonda Rich, Mike Jacobson, Ron Freeman, Carolyn Homan, Carol Doerfler and Gary Blake. Not pictured are Bob DeVore, Kim Freeman and Martin Doerfler.

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