

SMITH,

continued from Page A1

Urban Renewal Board. In September 2007 he was appointed to a vacancy on the Keizer City Council. He won his election in 2008. For the 2012 election, he initially decided not to run but decided after the filing deadline to run. He thus ran as a write-in candidate but lost to Ken LeDuc.

Interestingly, LeDuc resigned in 2013 after just a few months on council.

After his initial time on council, Smith was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, serving as chair of that board in 2014.

In the fall of 2014, Smith won an election to re-join the city council. He was also the public relations person for the Big Toy play structure project at Keizer Rapids Park, which was built last June.

Smith and wife Krystal both work at SAIF (State Accident Insurance Fund) Corporation in Salem.

"This was not about any problem or anything being wrong," Smith said Tuesday. "There's no family or health thing. This was a good thing. We wanted to move to a downtown urban living situation. We had been talking about it for years. I thought we would do it after my council term was done and after Keifer had graduated. This opportunity came to us. It was a short time frame. It was too good of an opportunity to pass up."

While happy for the opportunity, Smith noted the downside.

"I'm still disappointed about leaving my term early,"



Brandon Smith poses in Keizer City Hall Tuesday evening. KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

he said. "I don't like that. I normally wouldn't give up in the middle of a term for any reason. I believe in fulfilling that commitment to the best of my ability."

Since the next council meeting is March 7, a few days after he takes possession of the Salem home, Smith said he had to resign this week.

"I need to be able to go at a moment's notice, when our Keizer house sells," Smith said. "It was a timing thing. The city charter is very clear, you have to have residency to serve. Plus, this is a good time to make a clean break before the budget sessions start."

After having to leave his term early, does Smith foresee making up for it by joining the Salem City Council or doing some other form of public service?

"That is always a possibility," he said. "There are some other things I would like to do, but at the moment I'm not concerned about that. Our lifestyle is changing pretty dramatically. My son is in the

process of making a decision on college. That will be a big transition for us, no kids in the house in the fall."

Smith noted he knows the president of his new neighborhood association (David Dahle) and knows various people on the Salem City Council and the Salem Chamber of Commerce. He might be willing to be active in the neighborhood association, but not much more, at least not at first.

"Anything I do in Salem will be a way's down the road," he said. "Work and family are what I will focus on."

Smith pointed to a few of his top memories of public service in Keizer.

"The dedication of the Keizer Civic Center (in 2009) and the Big Toy are pretty big," he said. "They're right at the top. And the year I was chair of the Parks Board we amended the master plan for Keizer Rapids Park. That was a big deal and brought a lot of people in. The civic center was such a huge project."

KLL,

continued from Page A1

"To do the whole project is \$43,200," Holland said. "They want \$10,000 in grant money for the \$43,200 job. We need to work on those fields and get them modern. There are a lot of problems up there."

The grant money would be from the Parks Board matching grant program, which has about \$14,000 left for the rest of the fiscal year ending June 30.

Jim Taylor, the former city councilor who returned to coaching at the facility last year, noted the city was given a list of needs a few years ago, with a price tag of approximately \$500,000.

"Every field out there needs something," Taylor said. "If they do one field every year, then maybe it'll be two fields a year down the road if people get involved. I don't see a downside if we can come up with some money. This is the first time I've heard someone come in and say they will do something for a minimal cost."

Scott Klug asked if the matching fund request would become a regular thing.

"Are we looking at \$10,000 this year and on?" Klug asked.

Holland said there would be an annual request, but not necessarily the same amount each year.

"It might be less for some of the fields," Holland said. "Rick Day will help with some stuff. We want to do it the right way. Each year is different. Any year, you can say you don't want to (financially support) it anymore. But if you see their work, that's not going to happen. These are the right guys to do it. There will be a lot of ways people can help with this. Knowing Tony,



Top: Tony Cuff with Clint Holland and Chris Argue. Above: Cuff and Holland inspect a dugout at KLL Park. KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

he'll bring guys from his farm out to help. That guy does a good job."

Johnson liked the idea, since Keizer Youth Sports Authority (KYSA) formerly leased the field and is in charge of maintenance.

"The city doesn't have the money to put into it," Holland said. "Here we have guys willing to do it."

Richard Walsh asked if the people working with Holland would be doing the job KYSA and KLL people should be doing.

"Would they be able to contribute?" Walsh asked of KYSA and KLL. "Aren't you relieving them of what would be their responsibility?"

Holland noted the shorter leases for running KLL Park

has had an impact. "It has come up many times it's hard to put in a lot of money when the lease is up," he said.

J.T. Hager liked the idea of people pitching in.

"The men you talked about, that's fantastic," Hager said. "The project is fantastic. It would be good to look at the whole situation out there."

Walsh said the project sounds good, but noted so do others.

"I think it's a great project, with fantastic volunteers," Walsh said. "But I know there are other projects brewing. We have to say no to somebody."

Holland said a formal budget and project application will be submitted in time for the March 8 Parks Board meeting.

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