

REVENUE, continued from Page A1

the anticipation of receiving \$100,000 in rental fees for the entire fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

"As of the end of February, we have surpassed the goal already," Wood said on Monday. "As of Feb. 29, the fund has already received \$101,094 in rental income and is currently projected to receive approximately \$150,000 in rental fees for the fiscal year."

The supplemental budget request came forward because an additional \$10,000 is needed for temporary labor to staff events and \$5,000 is needed for maintenance costs and for credit card fees. The request was approved unanimously.

"I am thrilled with the revenue coming in on the community center," mayor Cathy Clark said. "Kristian and the people at the Keizer Heritage Center have been working closely to make sure

we see increased use. Thank you for the hard work Kristian and team. We hear so many good things from people who hold events here."

Wood said word of mouth has helped increase business at city hall.

"People have enjoyed using the facility," he said. "That has been the driving force for the increase. We're close to where they want us to be. We probably have more work to do. We anticipate the current level will continue into the future."

After concerns were expressed during the last two budget cycles, councilors approved a revised rental pricing structure for the city hall last summer.

Room rental rates were increased across the board and the cheaper Tuesday Community Day rate — referred to as the "Tightwad Tuesday" rate — was eliminated since state agencies were taking advantage of the lower rates and filling up rooms on that day, which went against the goal of offering a lower rate for community or non-profit groups.

"A large percent of those groups (that took advantage of the lower rates) still come back," Wood said. "Our facility is nicely located, with plenty of parking."

There was a lack of discussion about the topic on Monday. That, and the notable upswing in the numbers, is in contrast to the last two budget cycles.

For example, last May budget committee members expressed disappointment and concern about the numbers.

"With this position, we budgeted revenue to move from \$98,000 to \$170,000," council president Dennis Koho said at the time. "We spent \$31,000 on this position. We made a jump of \$1,700 in revenue with that jump of \$31,000. I'm not sure it's proving itself financially."

Fellow budget committee member Ron Bersin hinted he was giving the position one more year.

"In the next year, we need to prove the need," Bersin said at the time. "This position needs to create revenue."

Lore Christopher suggested giving Bouvier more marketing money to help bring more events into the community center.

"We need to give her the tools," Christopher said at the time. "And we've got to get on the government agencies who are taking advantage of the low rates. That program was designed for local non-profits with a \$20,000 total budget, not state agencies."

FACES: 'They can have the same shot as anyone else'

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One face will be longtime Town & Country owner Don Lebold, since he's letting the mural be done on his building. Each of Keizer's six mayors to date will be depicted. Six more spaces for faces can be purchased for \$200 each. Four more will be raffled off for \$5 each and the last four will be raffled off to children for free.

"We will cap it at 21 portraits," Hagen said.

With Lebold and the six mayors, seven of those portraits are already decided. With the others, people can choose who they would like to see depicted. In other words, someone buying one for \$200 can have a portrait done of themselves or anyone they choose. Hagen noted she believes she has sold two of them so far.

There had been talk previously about having portraits of a couple of Native American tribal leaders, but that will now be done for a later mural. A motion to do that was approved unanimously.

As the details of the different categories were explained, KPAC chair Beth Melendy had a question.

"Aren't we getting a little complicated?" Melendy asked. "I feel this is really confusing."

Hagen noted young children won't be part of the raffle, since they'll have the opportunity to put their hand prints and names on the mural.

City Attorney Shannon Johnson was among those feeling free faces should not be given to past chairs of the Iris Festival, as requested by Dieker.

"We can let the chamber know of the plan for purchase," Johnson said. "They have the same chance as anyone else. I have no way to gauge who will want to pay \$200 to have a face up there. We have to be fair. We have to tell the chamber they can have the same shot as anyone else."

Melendy had a similar thought.

"We already have a process in place," she said. "It's nice they are volunteers with the parade, but the chamber can purchase portraits for \$200."

Melendy also suggested if there is the interest to purchase portraits at \$200 each, that number available could be raised and the number of free ones be reduced.

Hagen noted a series of mural meetings have been planned. Sixteen attended a recent meeting last month.

The most recent meeting was held on March 7 at Keizer Civic Center.

KPAC member and local graphic artist Jessi Long led the meeting and talked about color mixing theories. All images being done for the mural were asked to be brought back at the meeting.

Another mural meeting takes place March 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Keizer Art Association classroom at the Keizer Heritage Center, next to city hall. Wendy Lusby will talk about sponge painting techniques.

Hagen, Lusby and Kathy Hainey met recently to begin the process of scaling images to size and composing the overall image for the mural.

"It is not too late for anyone to help create the community mural," Hagen said. "The work scope and activities will change because the finished mural involves many steps."

Nate Brown, Keizer's director of Community Development who is staff liaison to KPAC, noted March 22 at 6 p.m. is also the time of the next KPAC meeting.

"Shouldn't those of you painting be in that class?" Brown asked.

Christopher waved off the idea.

"There will be someone at the mural telling me what to do," she said. "Remember, we did the Big Toy."

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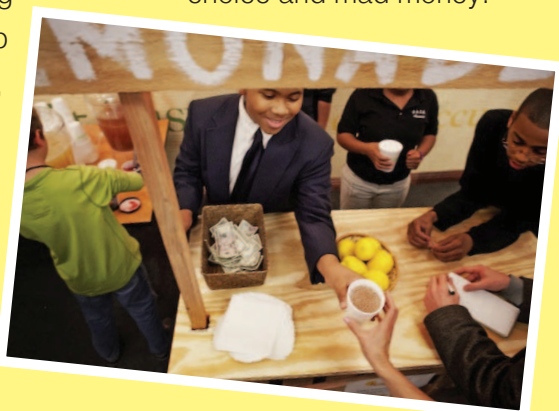


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