

Keizertimes

SECTION A

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Council denies Keizer Chamber request for parade fee waivers

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A Keizer Chamber of Commerce request that city officials waive fees and other costs associated with the Holiday Lights Parade was snuffed out at the Keizer City Council meeting Monday, Nov. 21.

The Keizer Chamber requested waivers for fees totaling \$5,805 related to police staffing, public works costs and temporary use permits among others, but councilors were not in a giving mood. One city councilor even expressed frustration at the asking.

"The chamber did come to council a month ago and we were honest about what we could waive and what we couldn't. I'm a little disappointed that they came

"I think we all love this event, but we have a city to run and we have to be diligent with the money we have."



— Kim Freeman, Keizer City Councilor

and asked for it anyway," said Councilor Kim Freeman. "I think we all love this event, but we have a city to run and we have to be diligent with the money we have."

Danielle Bethell, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, asked the city council to consider fee waivers at a previous meeting and, while no action was taken, councilors made it

clear that waivers would be unlikely.

At the time, Mayor Cathy Clark said she wanted to hear from River Road North businesses about their success during the parade before dipping into city coffers in support of it.

At the meeting Monday, the biggest topic of discussion was a request to waive \$4,000 for police staffing. Granting

such a waiver would subtract from the city's general fund which is already stretched thin, and even a \$4,000 expense could create a shortfall down the line.

"I feel like that during the budget process in May would be the proper time to ask for a waiver like this. I will be a no vote on waiving anything," said Councilor Amy Ryan.

The fees the Keizer Chamber was requesting waivers for generally fell into two categories hard costs and foregone revenues. In addition to the \$4,000 for police staffing, there were another \$1,300 in costs to the Keizer's Public Works Department that would have to be absorbed. Other costs – \$50 for an application fee and \$275 in temporary use permits – would

simply have resulted in less revenue.

Councilor Bruce Anderson said he was impressed with the Chamber's discussions regarding the decision to take on the parade, and would have supported many of the fee waivers, but not the police staffing.

"The police staffing is a bridge too far, but I think looking at the other fee waivers are reasonable," Anderson said.

In the end, the only waiver the Chamber left the meeting with was worth \$180, which covers the costs of parade coverage on Keizer's public access cable channel, Keizer 23. Keizer 23 funds are sourced outside the general fund.

The parade is slated for 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10.

Keizer church hosts OSP outreach



Trooper Shelly Squibb talks with Sol Rivera, Patty Echeverria and Diana Alvarez at Inglesia Luz Del Valle Church during a law enforcement outreach event Thursday, Nov. 17.



C. Cuevas

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Oregon State Trooper Cristian Cuevas was only called in to meet with his high school counselor once, and it remains something of a sore point.

"They only wanted to ask me why I wasn't picking up my free bus passes," said Cuevas at Inglesia Luz Del Valle Church in Keizer Thursday, Nov. 17.

Cuevas took part in an outreach event at the church on Dearborn Avenue Northeast intended to connect local Latino youth with potential job opportunities in law enforcement. Rev. Jose Dominguez arranged the gathering, which drew about three dozen attendees, as a follow-up to a community event in August to talk about community relations with local law enforcement.

One of the concerns that arose from the earlier conversation was the lack of diversity among the local law enforcement while minority populations continue to grow.

Cuevas, a native of Chile, talked about his path to the Oregon State Police, which he felt was probably reflected in the experience of today's youth.

"I wish my councilor had brought me in to

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City recognized for bicycle friendliness

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Keizer has earned an honorable mention as a bicycle-friendly city from the League of American Bicyclists (LAB).

It was announced last week in Washington, D.C., that Keizer joined 33 other communities throughout the nation in the honorable

mention category of recognition.

Platinum, gold, silver and bronze designations are also available should city officials decide to pursue them. Oregon has

11 communities that rank bronze or higher. Ashland (gold), Corvallis (gold) and Bend (silver) also received designations this time around.

An honorable mention recognizes Keizer's efforts toward improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. The Bicycle Friendly City (BFC) program provides a benchmark for communities to evaluate

those conditions and policies, while highlighting areas for improvement.

A trio of city volunteers were the driving force behind the application to LAB. Hersch Sangster, Pat Fisher and John Henry Maurice, all members of Keizer's Traffic, Bikeways and Pedestrian Safety Committee, took

on the effort with the blessing of the city council.

"We really tried to play devil's advocate as we went through the checklist of qualifications," said Sangster. "And we came

out better than we expected. This is a big thing for the city."

More than an honorable mention or a metal designation, the group wanted a baseline assessment of where Keizer stood in relation to other cities in the LAB program. In addition judging the application to the program, LAB officials sought out input from residents who use Keizer's bikeways through an online survey and then selected some responders to

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Mecha-cow proposal meets resistance

By ERIC A. HOWALD
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The Keizer roundabout opened just three months ago but the Keizer Public Arts Commission is already trying to figure out what to put in the center of it.

Commissioners discussed the potential of the space and even one proposal from a Keizer sculptor with a piece along the River Road North art walk.

Rick Smith, a salvage artist who crafted the *Iron Glory* sculpture of the American flag near Copper Creek Mercantile on River Road North, submitted a proposal to construct a trio of salvage-metal cows that would stand in the middle of the intersection.

Smith's proposal called for \$2,000 in materials and supplies and \$7,500 in labor, but he would donate half of the latter amount to the project for a total cost of \$5,750. That amount is more than the Arts Commission

has on-hand so fundraising would be required.

Before the conversation moved toward approval, the idea met with resistance during discussions.

Commissioner Jessi Long said the idea of cows gave her pause. "There's something about cows that screams, 'Let's mess with it,'" Long said. "I think maybe a windmill or a piece of farming equipment might be a better idea."

When ideas for an old truck or piece of farming equipment were floated, City Councilor Amy Ryan opposed.

"I hesitate to say a truck or farm vehicle because when I was growing up people always complained about the old, rusty trucks in the field there," said Ryan, the city council liaison on the committee.

She also opposed the cow idea given the affinity for the herd that calls the property

"There's something about cows that screams, 'Let's mess with it.'"

— Jessi Long, Keizer Public Arts Commissioner



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